

**Telmessani to support Mubarak**

CAIRO, Dec. 28 (R) — Omar Al Telmessani, the Muslim Brotherhood leader released from detention two days ago, was today quoted as saying he would support the government of President Hosni Mubarak provided it adopted a programme of reform. In an interview with the Cairo newspaper Al Gomhouriya, Mr. Telmessani, editor-in-chief of the Brotherhood's suspended magazine Al Daawa, said Egyptians now needed to work together and avoid factional disputes. The Brotherhood leader had spent three months in prison on the orders of the late President Anwar Sadat, who accused him of inciting sectarian hatred. He was set free on Saturday with seven other members of the outlawed organisation.

**Yamit settlers burn house**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 28 (A.P.) — Settlers in the northern Sinai town of Yamit set fire to an empty house during the night to protest the government's refusal to meet their demands for compensation for the evacuation of the area, sources in the town said today. The settlers say they started fortifying the town with sandbags, trenches, and barbed wire barriers over the weekend in preparation for what they said would be a violent conflict with authorities. A blaze in a second vacant house was extinguished yesterday. The settlers rejected a government call to return to negotiations on the amount of compensation they will receive for their homes and businesses.

**NCC approves record budget for 1982**

**Hassan meets with Kreisky**

VIENNA, Dec. 28 (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky in Vienna yesterday. Prince Hassan acquainted Chancellor Kreisky with the situation in the occupied Arab territories, the Israeli occupation authorities' repressive measures practised against the citizens in the occupied Arab territories and the situation in the Arab region following Israel's recent decision to annex the occupied Golan Heights. Prince Hassan and Dr. Kreisky also discussed the results and dimensions of the Cancun economic conference.

Prince Hassan also explained to Chancellor Kreisky the activities and objectives of the Arab Thought Forum which seeks to establish better cooperation between the Arab states and the European community. Prince Hassan is currently on a private visit to Austria.

**Zawawi arrives for 2-day visit**

AMMAN, Dec. 28 (Petra) — Omani Foreign Minister Qais Al Zawawi arrived in Amman this afternoon for a two-day visit to Jordan to deliver a letter to His Majesty King Hussein from Sultan Qaboos of Oman.

The letter deals with the latest developments of the situation in the Arab area and ways to strengthen Arab solidarity in light of the new circumstances.

Mr. Zawawi will also have talks with several Jordanian officials on strengthening brotherly ties and cooperation between Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman.

Mr. Zawawi was met at Amman airport by Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi and the Omani ambassador in Amman.

**Basic considerations**

The NCC approved the government's decision to base the 1982 budget on the following considerations:

1. Support for the Arab inhabitants of the West Bank and other occupied territories.
2. Strengthening of the armed forces and the public security apparatus.
3. Implementation of the 1981-1985 development plan and compliance with its guidelines.
4. Raising the standard of public services.
5. Increasing food security by stepping up production and increasing storage capacity.
6. Undertaking serious efforts for oil prospecting in Jordan.
7. Continuing to bridge the gap between internal revenues and recurrent expenditures.

**Inflation**

The NCC report indicated that the Jordanian economy suffers from inflation, which particularly hits citizens with low incomes. An accurate figure for inflation could not be given, the report con-

**Army may enlist Arabs, Eitan says**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 28 (A.P.) — Israel's military chief of staff was quoted today as saying Arabs from the recently annexed Golan Heights may eventually be drafted into the Israeli army.

Lt. Gen. Rafael Eitan was quoted by the Maariv newspaper as saying that "in the future, it may be possible to draft them into the Israeli defence forces." He was talking to high school students in

cluded, due to the lack of accurate breakdowns of allocations for military expenditures which amount to JD 180 million, current expenses of the armed forces fund (JD 140 million) and allocations for independent public institutions (JD 350 million), and constitute 53 percent of public expenditures.

The report went on to say that the private sector's participation in the five-year development plan through annual investments averaging JD 350, and the extent to which these investments have on bank credits for financing, add to the difficulty of assessing whether the 1982 budget will be inflationary.

The NCC, however, urged the government to adopt the following measures to curb inflation:

1. To carry out monthly measurements of inflation.
2. To coordinate monetary, fiscal and economic policies to lower inflation or prevent it from increasing.
3. To avoid deficit financing and give preference to progressive taxation over such financing.

The NCC expressed dismay over Arab reservations preventing Jordan from benefiting from the

joint Arab Development Decade, particularly since this development decade had been taken into consideration in formulating the five-year development plan.

The NCC called on the Arab countries financing the development decade to enable Jordan to benefit from its funds in joint Arab ventures that would bring in joint Arab revenues.

The NCC observed that increasing national production and reducing the deficit in the balance of trade — one of the principles on which the 1982 draft budget is based — calls for joint efforts by both the public and private sectors.

The committee approved budget allocations for major industrial projects and recommended that the government hold a public debate on industrialisation in Jordan, local consumption and importation.

The NCC report indicated that the JD 36 million estimated deficit in the 1982 budget, could increase if some Arab countries were late in covering Libyan and Algerian aid commitments to Jordan.

The seriousness of the situation is aggravated by an already accumulated deficit of JD 150 million, the report noted.

**Recommendations**

The NCC recommended that the following two changes be included in the budget law to reduce the deficit:

1. Increasing tax estimates on income and profits by JD 2 million.
  2. Increasing interest and profit estimates by JD 12 million.
- The NCC also recommended that the government transfer all operations profits at the Central Bank of Jordan to the public treasury and increase its financial support for the University of Mu'ta.
- The NCC report also pointed out that the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture should be more in line with increasing agricultural production to achieve food security.
- The NCC expressed regret that no allocations had been made in

**Assad returns to Syria after Gulf tour**

ADEN, Dec. 28 (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad left for home today after a seven-day tour of the Gulf and the Arabian peninsula aimed at spurring Arab action against Israel's annexation of the occupied Golan Heights.

Mr. Assad, who visited all Arab states in the Gulf and peninsula except Oman during his seven-day trip, was given public support in his campaign against the internationally criticised Israeli move.

A Kuwaiti minister disclosed yesterday that Mr. Assad was seeking an early Arab summit to deal with the annexation of the Heights.

But officials in more than one country visited by the Syrian leader indicated that any Arab meeting would have to wait until after a United Nations Security Council meeting on Jan. 5.

**Iranian Majlis member assassinated**

BEIRUT, Dec. 28 (A.P.) — A member of the Iranian Majlis (parliament) was assassinated today and three more opponents of the fundamentalist regime were executed as Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini appealed to workers to be alert and prevent infiltration by "deviant persons," Iran's official news media reported.

Khomeini's call for vigilance came two days after the exiled leader of the Mujahadeen Khalki urban guerrilla group urged Iranian workers to stage a general strike against the revolutionary

government. The Pars news agency reported that parliament deputy Mohammad Taki Behsharar was gunned down today by "terrorists" in Tehran.

Behsharar, a Khomeini loyalist who was often quoted on Tehran radio, was killed by attackers in an automobile who opened fire on his car, Pars said. It said a revolutionary guard was wounded but gave no indication what happened to the assassins. Behsharar was from Semiran in the central province of Isfahan.

Meanwhile, Tehran radio monitored in London reported the executions of three Mujahadeen Khalki guerrillas, including a woman, at Tehran's Evin prison yesterday.

This brings to 1,656 the number of officially announced executions of anti-government forces since the ouster of President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr last June.

The Mujahadeen Khalki, whose leader Massoud Rajavi now lives in France, is the largest and most powerful opposition group engaged in a war of terror against the government.

**Shell kills 2 in Beirut**

BEIRUT, Dec. 28 (A.P.) — A shell went off in the low-income residential neighbourhood of Ain Remaneh today killing two civilians and wounding two others, a police spokesman and Beirut radio stations reported. The spokesman said the shell, a relic of artillery battles between Beirut's two sectors went off when two pedestrians tried to lift it up before calling police.

**Begin writes to Mubarak**

CAIRO, Dec. 28 (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak received a message today from Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin explaining his decision to annex the Syrian Golan Heights. Israeli Ambassador Moshe Sasson told reporters after handing the message to the Egyptian leader that it also dealt with other aspects of relations between the two countries. Mr. Begin also reaffirmed Israel's commitment to withdraw from the remaining part of the Sinai by April 25, in accordance with the Camp David peace accords.

**Cypriots protest Golan annexation**

CYPRUS, Dec. 28 (A.P.) — Greek Cypriots leftist and centre political parties demonstrated peacefully here today against Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights. About 200 men and women, members of the parties youth sections, marched through the main streets in single file holding up placards with slogans supporting Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation and denouncing Israel, Zionism and imperialism. The demonstrators marched past the Israeli embassy chanting slogans. They also delivered a written protest to a member of the embassy staff denouncing the Israeli move and demanding its cancellation and the implementation of United Nations resolutions on Palestine and the Middle East.

**Klibi visits Rabat**

RABAT, Dec. 28 (R) — The Arab League secretary-general, Chadi Klibi, arrived in Casablanca last night for talks with King Hassan of Morocco on a possible resumption of the Arab summit meeting that was suspended in Fez last month. The suspension was decided by King Hassan when the summit failed to agree on Saudi Arabia's peace plan for the Middle East. Mr. Klibi said that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's current tour of Gulf countries had created new prospects for a resumption of the Fez conference. Israel's annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights had helped to strengthen the Arab ranks, he said.

**Yamani arrives in Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, Dec. 28 (A.P.) — Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani arrived here today for a week-long visit to Pakistan. He is scheduled to call on Pakistan's petroleum minister, Arman Ali Khanfar and to hold talks with President Gen. Zia Ul Haq, official sources said. He will also visit several industrial sites.

**Senegal, Gambia to debate union**

DAKAR, Dec. 28 (R) — Parliaments in Senegal and Gambia tomorrow begin a special debate expected to lead to ratification of a union between the two countries and the creation of the Senegambia confederation pact two weeks ago in Dakar, Gambia. President Dawda Jawara said the union was unique in modern African history. He expected it to be ratified by Jan. 1.

**Arafat predicts difficult year for PLO**

BEIRUT, Dec. 28 (A.P.) — Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat says the "crucial difficulties" in 1982, "the year of changes in the political map of the Middle East."

Mr. Arafat made his remarks in a speech he delivered at a PLO military school in Beirut yesterday.

Mr. Arafat said prevailing disarray in the Arab World would encourage Israel with U.S. backing to strike at Palestinian concentration in Lebanon, the PLO's main power base in the Middle East.

"In these bad Arab times, intrigues will escalate against this dedicated group (Palestinians) which is confident of its victory," Mr. Arafat said. "We are facing a difficult period and the year (1982) will witness changes in the political map of the Middle East as well its alliances and groupings. But no one will be able to subdue us."

Mr. Arafat also said that Israel has massed troops and armour along Lebanon's southern border for an attack on Palestinian forces in South Lebanon.

Mr. Arafat's speech came on the eve of a regular meeting of

PLO's Central Council plans to open in Damascus to discuss reports Israeli military movements along the southern Lebanese border and Israel's recent annexation of the Golan Heights.

Khaled Fahoum, speaker of the 60-man Central Council, said Mr. Arafat and the rest of the 15-man Executive Committee members of the PLO will attend the council's regular session.

The Central Council is the highest policy-making body of the PLO during the recess of the Palestine National Council, the movement's parliament-in-exile. Eight major Palestinian groups that make up the PLO are present in the Central Council.

Mr. Fahoum said in a statement the Central Council will also discuss conditions in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and situation in the Arab World after the assassination of the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

This appeared to indicate that the PLO will try to formulate a stand from Egypt's new regime of President Hosni Mubarak.

The PLO was among the fiercest critics of Sadat's conclusion of unilateral peace with Israel and the U.S. sponsored Camp David process for a comprehensive Middle East settlement.

Percy would go a long way in softening Senate criticism. The Israeli official, who requested anonymity, said "we would all like to see the relations moving to a better understanding. This was a common base felt in the meeting."

Mr. Percy scheduled a meeting tomorrow with Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, who unleashed another verbal blast at American policy in a weekend newspaper interview.

Gen. Sharon claimed the Golan was annexed to pre-empt what he saw as a U.S. plan to oust Israel from all the Arab territory it occupied in the 1967 Mideast war.

When the election was held on June 30, Mr. Begin won by a narrow margin, enough to put together a workable coalition. On reassuming power he sent the air force to attack Palestinian strongholds in Lebanon. The resulting war of attrition, climaxed by the massacre of civilians in Beirut, was halted by U.S. diplomatic intervention that resulted in a ceasefire on June 24.

Throughout it all, the most intractable problem remained—the question of the 1,200,000 Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza. The late president Anwar Sadat of Egypt agreed to re-open long-stalled talks on limited "autonomy" for the Palestinians, even though they dismissed the autonomy concept as a trick to perpetuate Israeli occupation.

Defence Minister Ariel Sharon proclaimed a new "moderate" line for the occupied areas, promising to reduce collective punishments and other harsh measures.

**Begin's bellicosity appeals to Israelis**

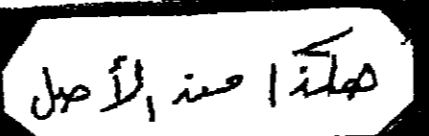
At the end of last year, opinion polls were forecasting a crushing election defeat for the Begin government. Hardships inflicted by the world's highest inflation rate seemed certain to bring the opposition Labour Party back to power.

By Spring, the tide had unaccountably turned. Opposition politicians attributed this largely to the pre-election economic strategy of heaping subsidies on basic foodstuffs and slashing taxes on luxury goods.

Critics still say the Israelis have yet to pay the bill for this largesse. But it took the sting out of inflation and dulled the sense of grievance.

However, other factors came into play. Polls showed that the more extravagantly Mr. Begin acted, the more his popularity increased. His stock rose on occasions such as the bombing of the Iraqi reactor and a speech in which he undiplomatically blasted West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.


  
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# NATIONAL

## Loans worth Momani advises mayors JD 15.5 m on the way

AMMAN, Dec. 28 (J.T.) — The cabinet has approved agreements for loans totalling more than JD 15.5 million from Kuwait and the World Bank.

During its session yesterday, the cabinet approved an agreement for a 6 million Kuwaiti dinar loan from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development to finance electric power projects in Jordan. It authorised the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Kuwait to sign the agreement on behalf of the government.

The cabinet also approved a \$25 million loan agreement from the World Bank to finance educational projects. Jordan's ambassador to the United States was authorised to sign the agreement with officials at the Washington-based bank.

The World Bank loan will help in building and furnishing a number of vocational training centres and secondary schools, as well as in upgrading a number of existing teacher training institutes to community college level.

The cabinet also approved a request by Aqaba Municipality for a KD 200,000 loan from the Arab Cities Development Fund. The loan will be guaranteed by the government of Jordan. The cabinet authorised Minister of Finance Salem Masa'deh to sign the agreement for the government of Jordan.

The cabinet also approved Suweileh Municipality's request for a loan of KD 250,000 from the same source, to be guaranteed by the government. This agreement will also be signed for Jordan by Mr. Masa'deh.

AMMAN, Dec. 28 (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hassan Al Momani today requested municipal and village councils around the country to give priority in their 1982 fiscal budgets to purchases of land needed for the implementation of their plans.

Priority also must be given in their budgets for uncompleted developmental and capital projects on which work started during 1981, a circular from the minister said.

Other instructions requested the mayors to separate allocations for the maintenance of roads from those used for the construction and asphaltting of new roads.

With regard to technical staff, Mr. Momani requested the mayors to determine their needs precisely. Villages which cannot afford to hire their own foremen and supervising engineers should join forces with their neighbours in recruiting staff who would serve the group as a whole, he said.

The circular urged the mayors to purchase equipment and furniture only in cases of dire necessity and for new projects.

It stressed the need to improve tax collection methods and to limit recruitment to the bare minimum.

### Arab counterparts confer



Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem (right) receives Omani Foreign Minister Qais Al Zawawi upon Mr. Zawawi's arrival in Amman Monday (Petra photo—see story on p. 1)

### Dust danger on desert road

AMMAN, Dec. 28 (Petra) — The Public Security Directorate today announced that thick dust was interfering with vision on the Amman-Aqaba desert road. It warned drivers to take caution on the road, due to the poor weather.

### Tal reports ALECSO conference decisions

AMMAN, Dec. 28 (J.T.) — Education Minister Sa'ad Al Tal returned to Amman from Tunis last night after attending a six-day meeting of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) held there on Dec. 21.

Dr. Tal said the conference adopted several resolutions, including a strong one supporting plans for confronting Zionist attempts aimed at distorting Arab culture and civilisation in the occupied areas.

The conference also decided to support the nomination of Jordan to the chairmanship of the next session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), he said.

The conference also decided to support Algerian government Arabisation programmes and to spend JD 2.7 million as a contribution to support the Arab Republic of Yemen in its effort to combat illiteracy, the minister said.

### NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

#### Iraqi business delegation due

AMMAN, Dec. 28 (J.T.) — An Iraqi trade delegation headed by the president of the Iraqi chambers of commerce union, Mr. Hatem Rashid, will arrive here on Jan. 3 upon an invitation extended by the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and the Amman Chamber of Industry, Al Ra'i newspaper reported today. The Iraqi delegation will hold talks with Jordanian officials on developing and boosting trade cooperation between Iraq and Jordan.

#### Exports to Greece discussed

AMMAN, Dec. 28 (J.T.) — Ministry of Industry and Trade Under-Secretary Mubammad Salih Al Hourani yesterday discussed with his Greek counterpart and an accompanying delegation the stepping up of Jordan's exports to Greece, Al Ra'i newspaper reported today. Mr. Hourani said it has been decided to ask the joint Jordanian-Greek economic committee to meet in March, the paper said.

#### Qattan invited to panel meeting

AMMAN, Dec. 28 (J.T.) — Chief Justice Ibrahim Al Qattan has received a cable from the Islamic Solidarity Fund's assistant secretary general for cultural and social affairs, inviting him to attend a meeting of the fund's expanded committee of experts in Jeddah from Feb. 13-16, Al Ra'i newspaper reported today. The committee will discuss the basic system of the Islamic fiqh (jurisprudence) academy.

#### Gaza officials visit CAEU

AMMAN, Dec. 28 (Petra) — The assistant secretary general of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) today received the chairman of the board of directors of the producers' association in the Gaza Strip, Mr. Hashem Ata Al Shawwa, and Khan Youssef Mayor Zari' Al Astal. They discussed the CAEU's decision to support and facilitate the marketing of the products of the occupied Arab areas. Mr. Shawwa expressed his appreciation of the CAEU decision.

#### Yarmouk to get institute branch

IRBID, Dec. 28 (Petra) — The Public Administration Institute has decided to open a branch at Yarmouk University next month. The headquarters of the branch will be at the faculty of economics and administrative sciences. Here the branch will hold its specialised courses in public administration, with the aim of raising the efficiency of civil servants in Irbid Governorate.

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**Today's Weather**

It will be partly cloudy, with northwesterly moderate winds. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Overnight low	Daytime high
Amman	5	15
Aqaba	15	22
Deserts	5	17
Jordan Valley	12	23

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 51 per cent, Aqaba 55 per cent.

**WHAT'S GOING ON**

**Exhibitions**

- Paintings by French "neo-realists", at the Jordan National Gallery.
- Paintings by pupils at Hisban Secondary School.
- Handicrafts exhibition by the Regional Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Blind, at centre headquarters in Shmeisani, opposite the administration headquarters of the Civil Service Consumer Corporation.

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NATIONAL

# Ruins of Hallabat reveal splendid mosaics

By Meg Abu Hamdan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Some of the finest mosaics ever found in Jordan have recently come to light, in the latest season of archaeological excavations at Qasr Al Hallabat.

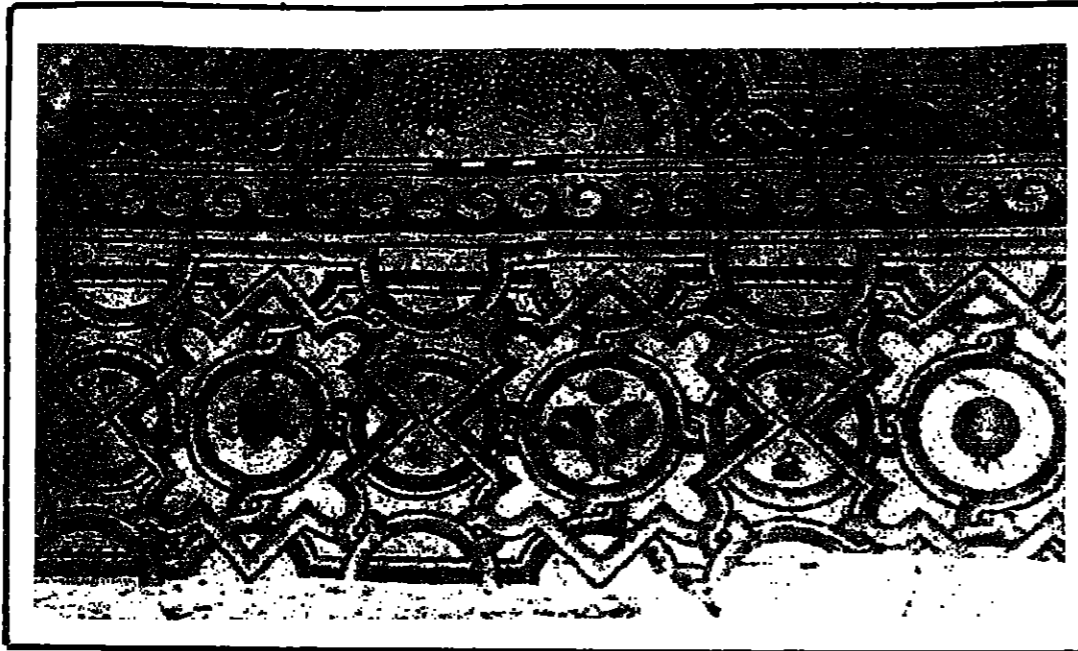
Dating from the Umayyad dynasty (A.D. 640-750), the mosaics have aroused much interest. This is not only because they were a totally unexpected discovery — hidden as they were under three solid metres of rubble and boulders — but because they are superior even to the famous Byzantine mosaics of Madaba.

Remnants of the mosaic pavement have been found in all four rooms so far cleared at Qasr Al Hallabat, whose ruins are situated on an elevated knoll commanding panoramic views of the surrounding plain, some 25 kilometres northeast of Zarqa.

This has been the third season of excavations, carried out under the directorship of Dr. Ghazi Bisheh of the Department of Antiquities. It was during the first season, in 1979, that the diggers accidentally came across one of the mosaics — a simple diamond-patterned pavement — in the course of a search of the Greek inscriptions that abound at Hallabat. Ultimately, 131 of these inscribed basalt stones were found, scattered all over the castle walls. They were originally erected as a separate monument, bearing an edict issued by the Byzantine Emperor Anastasius (A.D. 491-581). The Umayyads, with complete disregard for the emperor's lapsed authority, used the stones in the haphazard repair of the castle some 100 years later.

It was not until the following season, when Dr. Bisheh and the work teams went out primarily to investigate the area around the castle, that they came across the most exciting find — a mosaic pavement depicting beautifully detailed and lively animals. "The preserved animals," Dr. Bisheh told the Jordan Times, "reveal both a high level of technical skill and a remarkable concern for plasticity, animated expressions and movements."

These qualities identify the mosaic floor of Qasr Al Hallabat as one of the finest examples to be found in Jordan. It is also a very important find, as it will add greatly to our understanding of Umayyad art: an understanding that is



Section of an intricate mosaic floor (above) with sketch showing its relation to the whole (below)



very limited, as few examples of their art — especially of their mosaics — have been preserved. Furthermore, the only ones to have been found in this area before — at Khirbet Al Mafjar near Jericho and at Khirbet Al Minya on the shores of Lake Tiberias — were in both instances mosaics

consisting primarily of geometrical patterns." At Qasr Al Hallabat, however, in the spaces between the interlocking circles and ovals of the geometrical design of the pavement, are seen a multitude of animals. One is the gazelle, where the tension of its alert muscles, its lean ribs and its keen eye are all meticulously expressed in the faded, but still beautiful, colours of the tiny squares. Then there is a mean-eyed, loping wolf, the sharpness of whose fangs is echoed and emphasised by his pointed nose, ears, claws and whiskers. There are a fish, a hare nibbling a bunch of grapes and two fat partridges, and much more — which, although unfortunately destroyed and lost forever, have left enough of their imprint to tell us that the whole floor — an area of 6.65 by 5.25 metres — was covered by their wonderful designs.

Several theories as to the meaning of the mosaic have been proposed; but none has any great weight of evidence behind it. What did, however, seem certain was that these two rooms represented the reception area where the Umayyad rulers received their important guests, especially as there were traces of fresco work remaining on the walls. But excavation work is often full of surprises and Dr. Bisheh had rapidly to change his own views when the latest season of work revealed two more mosaic floors.

Small fragments of geometric patterns were found in a large room on the south side of the castle, where the walls had been luxuriously sheathed in grey marble. This was indicated by the small indentations all over the stonework and by the small slabs of marble still remaining at ground

level. Here was obviously another grand room — leading off which was yet another. In this second room, terra cotta traces of colour indicate that the wall had been covered with frescoes, and on the floor were the remains of more mosaic pavement. Unfortunately, all that has been preserved of this floor is a delightful rendering of a large, long-necked duck.

The discovery of these additional rooms has led Dr. Bisheh to assume that the rest of the castle was thus decorated.

All these elaborately decorated rooms, with their marble sheathing, mural paintings, intricate mosaics and wood-stucco work — much of which was also found — indicate the Umayyads did not renovate the castle as a military structure. This had certainly been the function of the original castle. It was initially a much smaller building,

erected by the Romans as a military outpost to afford protection for the great Roman highway, built around A.D. 111-117. What did the Umayyads use the castle for, if not a fortress?

An early theory assumed the lonely "desert castles" — Hallabat is only one of many — were a kind of retreat for the Umayyads. The idea was that as they were originally of bedouin stock, these early Islamic rulers hated the city life and thus needed to find relaxation in the desert.

But there are serious objections to this theory," Dr. Bisheh explained. "First, the Umayyads were not bedouins, but were actually city dwellers from Mecca who carried out commercial activities with the Yemen, Iraq and Syria long before the emergence of Islam from the Arabian Peninsula. Second, if the hunting, bathing and dancing scenes depicted in the murals at Qasr Amra indicate anything, it is not a bedouin taste. Finally, not all the Umayyad palaces were constructed in the real desert — most are situated on the borders between the desert and cultivated lands."

A second — more feasible, although still not conclusive — theory assumes that some of these buildings were related to agricultural enterprises, as they were associated with aqueducts, reservoirs, dams and sluice gates. This is certainly the case at Hallabat.

Over the last two seasons of work, archaeologists have been piecing together the puzzle of Hallabat's irrigation system, and thus of the life that went on outside the castle walls. Because the castle is situated in an area characterised by a lack of water sources and limited and unreliable rainfall, a sophisticated irrigation system had to be constructed — and this is just what was done.

All the water running off from the distant, gently rolling hills in the south came in wadis across the plain, and was then collected by a complicated series of sluice gates, dams and reservoirs which fed a roughly triangular walled enclosure near the castle. This enclosure was further divided into rectangular plots, each one lower than the last, which meant water flowed between the plots by gravity.

All the irrigation structures at Hallabat were meticulously built of well-squared stones. No rush job this, but a highly complex, intricately thought-out, well-built irrigation system capable of supporting such crops as the olive, the vine and citrus fruit in a dry and barren land.

This season's dig also saw the clearing of some rooms of the simple houses which clustered at the bottom of the knoll on which the castle stands. The archaeologists were hoping to find industrial objects — for example, an olive press



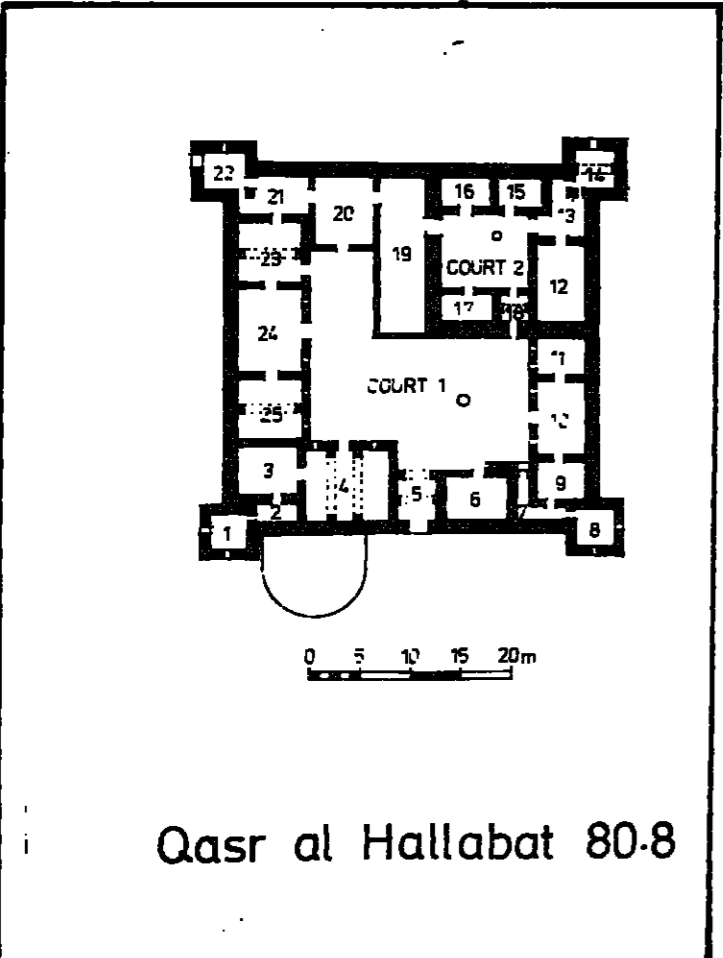
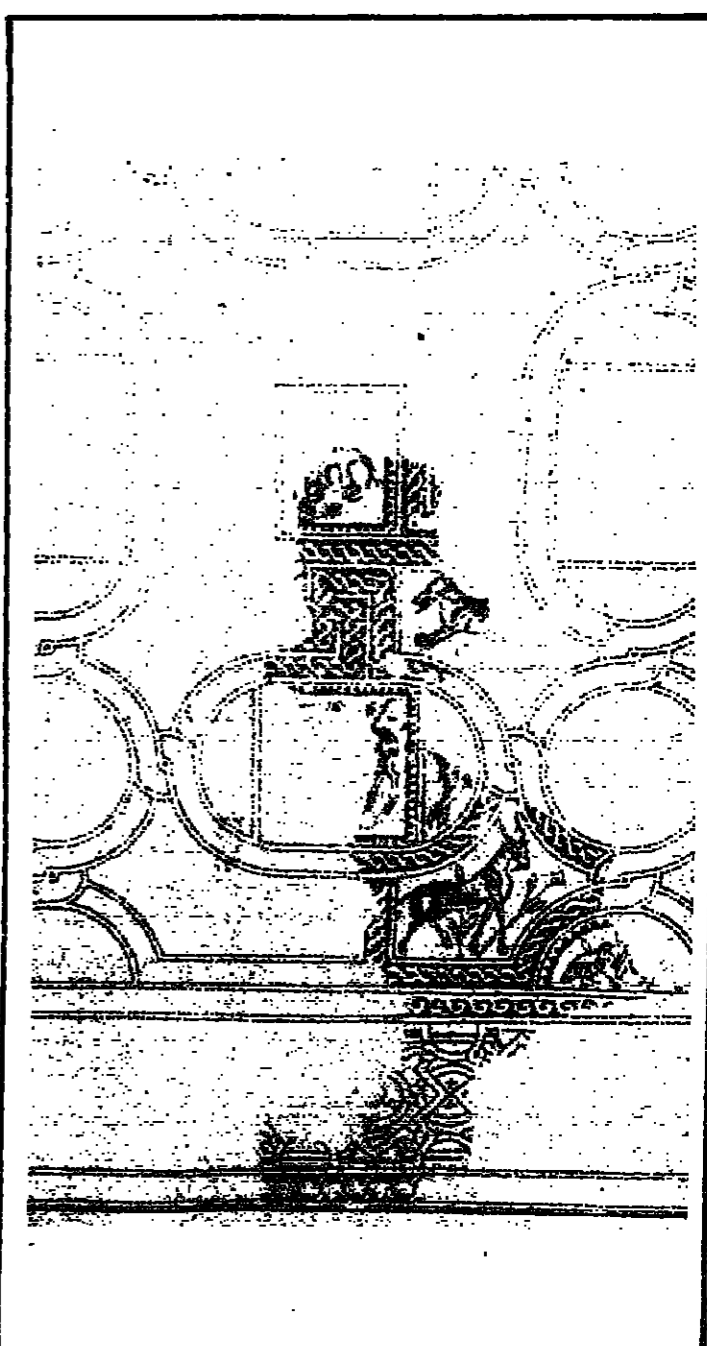
The fierce animals in this mosaic (above) are only a tiny part of the entire floor (below)

— which would give a clear idea of the lives led by the ordinary people. The only finds, however, were a *tabus* — a bread oven — and a stone mortar and pestle. It is hoped further excavation will be more fruitful.

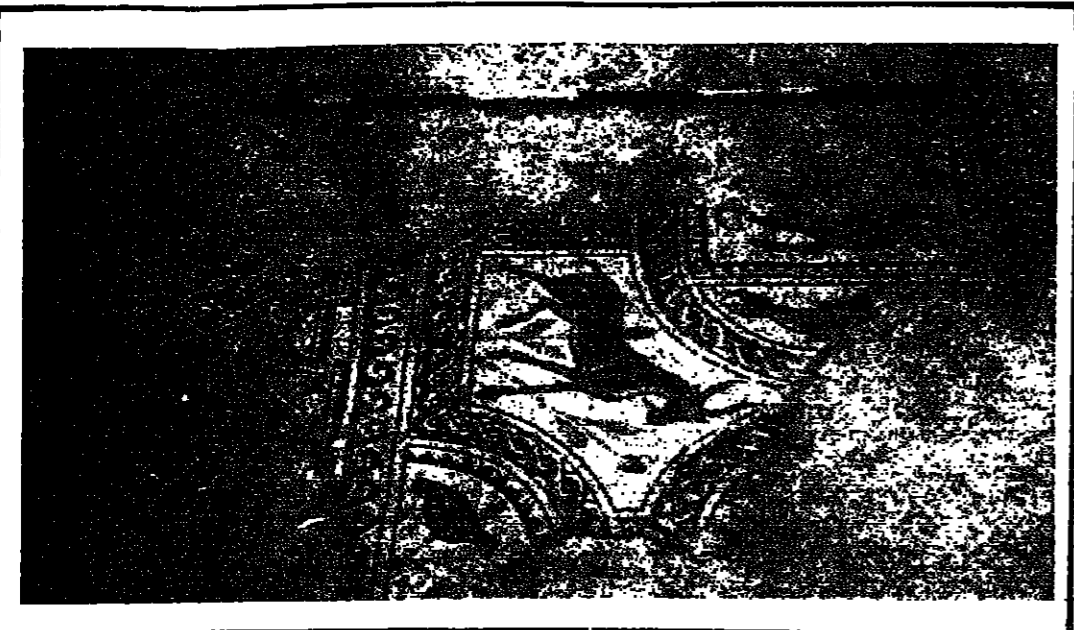
So it seems from all the detective work of the past few years, that during the Umayyad dynasty the castle and the whole area of Hallabat underwent a massive transformation. The castle was elaborately decorated, and new additions such as the baths found two kilometres to the East at Hammam al Sarah were introduced. Five cisterns, a huge water reservoir and an irrigated agricultural enclosure all came into being.

It was suggested that the castle was the reason for these agricultural enterprises, but that cannot be the complete answer. Without the constant flow of funds, the enterprise seems not to have been economically viable. It was abandoned shortly after the fall of the Umayyad Dynasty, around the middle of the eighth century. Dr. Bisheh therefore suggests that the development of the area by the Umayyads could have been because they needed to maintain close communication with the indigenous tribes. These local tribes were vehement supporters of their Islamic leaders.

No-one really knows, but perhaps further work at Hallabat will ultimately solve the mysterious riddle of why the Umayyads built these beautiful desert castles.



Floor plan of the massive Qasr Al Hallabat



More inhabitants of the mosaics' menagerie

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Afghan-held Soviets expect to die

EDITOR'S NOTE: An Afghan insurgent group arranged for a group of journalists to travel clandestinely to a guerrilla-held base inside Afghanistan where they interviewed three Soviet prisoners. The following dispatch was filed on the group's return to Pakistan.

By Barry Shlachter

Two teen-age Soviet soldiers held prisoner for months by a rightwing Afghan resistance party say they expect certain execution once their Muslim fundamentalist captors no longer find them useful for propaganda purposes.

"We are kept alive to be shown to journalists," Sgt. Yuri Grigorovich Povarnitsyn, 19, told a group of Western, Chinese and Iranian reporters at a fortified resistance base, an overrun Afghan army post located about 20 kilometers from the Pakistan border in Afghanistan's Zabul province.

When asked what would happen to him when his captors, the Afghan Hezbi Islami (Islamic Party) Gulbuddin faction, found him valueless for propaganda, the lanky Soviet soldier replied quickly through an interpreter: "Of course, they will slit our throats." Another prisoner, Pvt. Valeri Anatolievich Didenko, said he agreed.

Base Commander Zaffaruddin Khan, 26, said the Soviets would remain prisoners as long as they could serve as symbols of the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan. Afterward, they would be tried under Islamic law and most probably executed unless they convert to Islam.

Povarnitsyn and Didenko say they have no intention of becoming Muslims.

However, the third Allah Jirga prisoner, Mohammed Yazkulyev Kuli, who was born of Muslim parents in Turkmenistan, Soviet central Asia, might be spared because he is studying the Koran, the Islamic holy book, said Khan. Kuli himself declined to speak about



Povarnitsyn and Didenko under guard

his possible fate. Unlike the Khalis faction of the Hezbi Islami, which has offered to exchange a Soviet civilian geologist it is holding for 50 Afghans detained by the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul, Khan and other Gulbuddin faction officials say a swap is out of the question.

"If we exchange our prisoners for jailed Afghans, the Soviets and their puppets will just arrest more and execute them," said Mangal Hussain, a Gulbuddin spokesman. However, no formal decision has yet been taken, he went on.

Dissidents and guerrillas in Afghan prisons must fend for themselves and if they are put to death, they will be rewarded by Allah in paradise, said Hussain, a strict Muslim like most Hezbi officials. The Soviet Union contends it was asked for military help by the current government of President Babrak Karmal, who overthrew the government of Hafizullah

Amin in December 1979. The late Afghan leader Mohammad Daoud was killed during a 1978 Marxist coup by his pro-Moscow successors.

Didenko, like his two fellow prisoners, made no attempt during the hour-long interview to curry favour with his captors by criticising the Soviet intervention or praising his treatment here.

In the presence of Hezbi officials and armed guards, Povarnitsyn said Soviet troops came on a mission of friendship.

"We were sent for the sake of friendship and because it is useful for the Soviet Union because there is a revolution in Afghanistan and a new socialist country will be born," asserted the former tractor driver from Sverdlovsk, located in the Urals east of Moscow.

Kuli and Povarnitsyn, both 19-year-old farmboys drafted early in 1981, said they were captured separately in June near Cha-

amabad considers India as the only threat to it. This has further frozen Indo-U.S. relations, already strained by such issues as supply of nuclear fuel and Washington's attitude to the Third World.

The U.S. entirely disagrees with the Indian view that both superpowers are to blame for the Afghanistan crisis, although India accepts that the Soviet invasion was unjustified. New Delhi particularly fears that, by injecting modern arms into South Asia, the U.S. is bringing superpower rivalry and the risk of confrontation into what was hitherto a region in which India was the dominant power.

The Indian government feels that Gen. Zia has chosen to make his "no war" proposal now to show Washington that U.S. arms were not meant to be used against India. His call was, after all, made just before the U.S. Congress was

due to discuss it. Gen. Zia's call was not sent formally to the Indian government — it was merely appended to a press statement, later handed to the Indian ambassador in Islamabad.

It was only when New Delhi realised that it might be losing out to Pakistan in a global propaganda campaign that the Indian government belatedly stated that it welcomed Gen. Zia's final acceptance of its own proposal.

Both governments must know that there is no real need for a new and formal "no war" pact. The two decided, after all, on a similar agreement in 1972, shortly after the war in Bangladesh.

The trouble is that the 1972 pact, known as the Simla Agreement, has not been seriously implemented. It sought a "step-by-step" normalisation of relations between the two countries, with the crucial Kashmir dispute

being taken up as the last step. But normalisation has made little progress. There is barely any trade between India and Pakistan and visitors from one country are treated with deep suspicion by the other.

Pakistan's historical rejection of the "no war" pact offered first by Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, the late prime minister of India, in 1949, was based on its belief that it would mean giving up its claim to Kashmir. The position remains unchanged, especially since India has already integrated the bulk of Kashmir which is under its control with the rest of the country, while hundreds of thousands troops of both countries face each other on the cease-fire line in the disputed state.

Western officials, in talks in European capitals this week, are assessing whether the crackdown has reached the limits of "repression" that would automatically trigger retaliation. They are also trying to determine whether Soviet "co-responsibility" justifies reprisals also against the Kremlin.

President Reagan has said it would be "naive" to imagine the Polish regime was acting without Soviet knowledge and support, although Moscow has been careful to withhold full public endorsement of the crackdown. Lord Carrington, Britain's Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that "what is happening in Poland is something entirely agreeable to the Soviet Union because they want to see Solidarity crushed."

Western analysts believe there is little hope now that the Solidarity trade union movement will be allowed to function as an independent force, even if the government tries to reopen a dialogue with its moderate leaders. The analysts also think military rule will continue for a long time and that the risk of Soviet intervention if worker resistance persists is still a strong possibility.

They say Polish authorities probably hope that remaining pockets of resistance will crumble as workers in strike-bound factories return home for Christmas holidays and that it will be difficult for them to reorganise after the break.

But this was by no means certain. Solidarity supporters could resume sit-ins which have already led to heavy losses in production and may continue to challenge the army and police. Western officials, basing themselves on radioed reports from embassies in Warsaw, say the situation has deteriorated in the last few days, increasing the chances of Soviet intervention if the Polish economy grinds to a standstill.

The officials say that Moscow, while obviously reluctant to move in, may feel forced to do so if a violent showdown develops between workers and military authorities. They say that so far the 20,000 Soviet troops already in Poland have kept the "lowest possible profile."

The Western dilemma was highlighted by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig when he said last weekend, "we cannot accept a doomsday theory that all is inevitably lost in Poland." Western officials still think something may be salvaged out of the unprecedented gains made by Solidarity in the last 18 months, but their hopes get dimmer with each report from Poland.

British sources said NATO nations were considering a variety of "unknown factors" in trying to gauge a proper response that would restrain the Polish military and inhibit Moscow while not hurting the Polish people. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger is travelling around Western Europe this week canvassing allied views. The London sources said his talks may help in framing a tougher Western response.

Western governments are already basically agreed that direct Soviet intervention would be answered by: — a virtually total trade blockade against Moscow. — suspension of U.S.-Soviet arms talks, a prolonged freeze in East-West détente, abandonment of hopes for a meeting in 1982 between President Reagan and Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, and a concerted campaign to isolate Moscow internationally.

— serious new efforts to strengthen NATO defences. Other projected measures have been kept secret, but Western officials say the check list is not automatically applicable to every contingency, especially if Soviet involvement cannot be definitely pinpointed. "It will depend very much on exactly what happens in a given situation," a British official said.

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NATO's complaint

By Sidney Weiland

WITH Western attitudes barding over the Polish military crackdown, NATO governments are trying to decide how to react without harming the Polish people.

Since last Christmas, when fear of a Soviet invasion was strong, the 15 NATO governments have had a "check list" of countermeasures to hit Kremlin interests in the event of direct Soviet intervention.

Below this threshold, it has been hard for the West to lay down in advance precisely what action would be called for if Moscow stayed on the sidelines, leaving it to Polish authorities to use home-grown force to crush the country's labour militants.

This has now happened, facing the 15 NATO nations with an acute political dilemma.

Western diplomatic analysts say the West could cut off economic aid, stop food supplies and bar future loans to Poland almost by the stroke of a pen.

But governments are aware such measures would strike harder at Poland's 35 million people than at the military regime now in control, particularly in deep winter when food is running short and everyday life for ordinary Poles is rapidly worsening.

When martial law was clamped down 10 days ago, the initial Western reaction was to wait and see if hopes that bloodshed could be avoided and that Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski's military council would chart a continuing reformist course.

Since then, Western leaders have been shocked by what they see as a brutal response by soldiers and internal security forces to crack remaining pockets of resistance.

According to reports reaching Western capitals, about 200 people may have been killed in street and factory clashes, thousands have been injured, and thousands more are in detention in bitterly cold and overcrowded camps.

While Gen. Jaruzelski's military council of National Salvation has pledged to continue reforms, it has so far given no clear hint of its real political intentions.

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— serious new efforts to strengthen NATO defences.

What's the problem?

GENERAL RAFAEL Eitan admits that the Druse Arab people of the Syrian Golan Heights have "a problem." The problem, as Gen. Eitan sees it, is that those unfortunate people, who have lived until now under Israeli occupation rule and are now considered to be under Israeli law, will have a hard time getting used to the change.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'IE: It seems that the "storm" of differences between Israel and the United States has subsided after achieving its goals. U.S. President Ronald Reagan's statements, made yesterday, show that Washington will sooner or later retract its decision on suspending the strategic cooperation agreement with Israel. These statements remind one of what happened between Washington and Tel Aviv in similar circumstances when Israel destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor and bombed residential areas in Beirut.

Harsh reality

Signs of agreement?

Who will take first puff of peace pipe?

Pakistan and India are vying with each other to claim the credit for initiating the "no war" pact, they are talking about. Meanwhile both of them are shopping for arms.

Palestinian unions under siege

estimians work in manufacturing or service industries. This has not been through their choice. Israeli settlements have taken over two-fifths of the Palestinian land, the best agricultural acreage. 80,000 Palestinians from the occupied territories — one third of the labour force — now work in Israel.

Handwritten signature or text at the bottom of the page.

GOT SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND??? LET THE JORDAN TIMES HEAR ABOUT IT



# ECONOMY

## Iraq hopeful on reaching agreement with Saudi Arabia over oil pipeline

BEIRUT, Dec. 28 (A.P.)—Iraqi Deputy Oil Minister Abdul Momin Samirai says his country is negotiating the construction of a new pipeline to move its crude oil across neighbouring Saudi Arabia to an oil shipping terminal in the Red Sea.

"We are in constant contact with our Saudi brothers on this matter and we hope they will reach an agreement with us as soon as possible," Mr. Samirai said in an interview published here today by An Nahar Arab Report and Memo.

The project is part of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's effort to find new outlets for crude oil following the destruction of Iraq's oil

loading and shipping facilities in the northeastern tip of the Arabian Gulf in the early days of the 15-month-old war with Iran.

Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani was quoted by the London-based Saudi magazine Al Majallah as saying early this month that his government had agreed to let Iraq build the pipeline.

Arab Report and Memo, a Middle East weekly newsletter that specialises in oil and business affairs, quoted Mr. Samirai as saying no agreement had actually been signed yet to begin work on the proposed pipeline but he said he hoped this would be accomplished soon.

The English-language newsletter quoted Mr. Samirai as saying the hoped-for trans-Arabia pipeline would have a yearly capacity of 40 million tonnes, or about 822,000 barrels a day on the basis of 7.5 barrels to a tonne.

The 1,200-kilometre pipeline would link Iraq's southern Rumaila oilfields to a terminal at the Red Sea port of Yanbu in Eastern Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Samirai asserted the proposed pipeline would not reduce Iraq's pipeline exports through the Mediterranean terminals in Turkey, Syria and Lebanon.

"No Arab or non-Arab country currently getting revenues from Iraqi crude transiting through

their territories will incur losses as a result of the new pipeline," Mr. Samirai was quoted as saying in the Beirut-based newsletter.

"Iraq is planning to increase its production and exports—hence the creation of a new terminal will enable us to increase our exports."

Mr. Samirai said Iraq is currently producing one million barrels a day of which an average of 600,000 barrels a day are exported through Turkish and Syrian Mediterranean terminals. His interview was conducted before the reactivation last weekend of pipeline exports through Lebanon's northern port city of Tripoli.

There is no official estimate of how much Iraqi crude is being pumped to Tripoli yet but the Lebanese government says the pipeline has a capacity of 500,000 barrels a day.

## New York joins the big league

By David Lascelles

NEW YORK: New York has always hankered to be the world's leading financial centre, and the recent start-up of offshore banking here was a big boost. But bankers say its international standing has gained far more from another development: the extraordinarily rapid growth of its foreign exchange business in the last few years.

This has made it a force to be reckoned with in a market where — surprisingly perhaps — it was a minor player as little as ten years ago. It's also seen as a sign of closer involvement with the outside world by the U.S.

Between April 1977 and March 1980, the daily trading volume on the New York foreign exchange market soared nearly five-fold, from \$5 billion to \$23 billion according to a recent study by the New York Federal Reserve Bank.

Nobody knows exactly how much it traded in London — its biggest rival — because the Bank of England does not release comparable figures. But the feeling among bankers is that New York trading has caught up impressively, though it probably still lags in volume because dealing tails off at the end of the day after Europe closes down.

For decades, New York was little more than a distant appendage to the world foreign exchange market because of the small demand that existed in the country for

foreign exchange services. That began to change in the 1970s, especially from 1978 onwards.

The Fed study cites these among the reasons:

- A marked growth in U.S. foreign trade and the country's involvement in international markets.
- The dramatic sharpening of exchange rate fluctuations which has focused much more attention on foreign currency exposure not just at banks but corporations as well.
- Vastly improved market-making in New York thanks to closer inter-bank dealing and the growing role of international foreign exchange brokers.
- As a result, the Fed says, "New York... has been transformed

from a regional market to a major link between Europe and the Far East that now rivals London as the leading centre for global foreign exchange dealings."

The U.S.'s deepening overseas involvement stemmed partly from the massive increase in oil imports in the early 1970s. This coincided with a sharp growth in export awareness and forced a whole new segment of U.S. business to buy and sell foreign currencies. The wild swings in exchange rates during the 1970s also obliged American businesses with foreign interests to protect themselves by entering the unfamiliar world of hedging, forward trading, swaps and, most recently, currency futures which began to grow in earnest from about 1973 onwards.

Currency fluctuations also attracted vast numbers of speculators who like nothing better than a market that moves — up or down. Leading the way were large U.S. banks for whom foreign exchange is one of the few markets where they may deal on their own account. According to the Fed study, "pure" inter-bank trading — unrelated to fulfilling customer orders — accounted for as much as half of the increase in foreign exchange trading in New York between 1977 and 1980, which amounted to \$385 billion.

Foreign exchange trading profits have thus become a useful new source of revenue for U.S. banks at a time when balance sheet-based business such as deposits and loans is not terribly profitable. Last year Citicorp, the U.S.'s largest banking group, earned \$175

million on its foreign exchange business which offset a good part of the losses it suffered on its lending business. Other big players are Bank of America (\$99 million in profits last year), Chase Manhattan (\$96 million), Morgan Guaranty (\$63 million), Chemical Bank (\$35 million) and Manufacturers Hanover Trust (\$9 million).

But like all trading, foreign exchange is a risky business and banks are learning not to rely too heavily on it for profits. In 1979, a particularly difficult year, foreign exchange earnings took a nasty dip.

The army of foreign banks that set up shop in New York in the late 1970s fuelled the market's growth by adding depth and liquidity — as well as giving it a more aggressive tone. Their arrival also accelerated the breakdown of a long-standing agreement among U.S. banks not to trade directly with each other but through brokers. (The agreement had partly to do with anti-trust fears which the foreign banks did not share).

New York's emergence as a full-blown player in the world foreign exchange markets has obviously had an impact on trading patterns, though quite how much is a matter of some debate. The opening of trading in New York (which happens just after lunch in London) has become a big moment for which traders now position themselves.

New York's absence from the market on U.S. holidays has begun to matter, where previously it did not. And as the Fed study pointed out, New York has become an important chain in round-the-world dealing. Banks who run a 24-hour "book" pass it from London to New York, whence it travels, probably via San Francisco (itself a small though growing market), to the Far East. New York's trading hours are also important because that is when Wall Street's credit markets throw up changes in interest rates which affect the dollar.

On the other hand the trading pace on Wall Street slackens noticeably once Europe has shut down for the day and dealers (who come in very early to catch Europe) take the chance to relax. Trading becomes thin and quirky — a single deal can make a noticeable blip in the market — and bankers are usually wary of reading too much into rate changes after the London close.

— Financial Times news feature

## Japan adopts austerity budget

TOKYO, Dec. 28 (R)—The Japanese cabinet today adopted the nation's most austere budget in 26 years laying emphasis on increasing defence spending and streamlining domestic expenditure.

A week of negotiations between government agencies ended last night with agreement on how to share a 1982 budget of 49.68 trillion yen (\$226 billion), a rise over this year of 6.2 per cent and the smallest increase since 1956.

The major disagreement was on the amount to be allotted to the defence agency which had called for an almost 10 per cent increase compared to 6.5 per cent proposed by the finance ministry.

Defence was finally allotted a 7.75 per cent increase, to about 2.59 trillion yen (\$11.75 billion), equivalent to 0.93 per cent of

Japan's gross national product (GNP) compared to 0.91 per cent this year.

This will pay for 23 F-15 fighter planes and seven Orion anti-submarine aircraft, well below the 43 fighters and 17 Orions originally demanded.

Opposition parties immediately attacked the draft budget, saying the defence allocation was too large compared with the small increases in social welfare and education spending.

Government sources said the compromise on defence spending was only reached after the intervention of Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki, who last May pledged to build up Japan's air and sea defences when he met President Reagan in Washington.

The United States has kept constant pressure on Japan to take

more of the burden of defending itself, a point recently reiterated by U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger when he called for greater efforts by Japan to help meet a major Soviet threat in the Pacific.

Japan has also sharply increased its overseas development assistance by 11.4 per cent to 44.2 billion yen (\$2 billion), an area where the U.S. has also called for bigger contributions.

The domestic scene, however, will be considerably less well financed as the government continues its efforts to streamline government spending and reduce its deficit.

There are only small increases in the budgets for social security and education and increases in the prices of rice, public transport fares, school and hospital fees.

Mr. Samirai said a stage-by-stage plan was under way to raise crude exports to their pre-war level of 3.5 million barrels a day through Mediterranean and Red Sea terminals.

He said Iraq's oil loading and shipping terminals at Khor Al Amaya and Mina Al Bakr have been bombed out of action by Iranian planes and ships since the early days of the war, bringing Iraqi shipments through the Arabian Gulf to a total standstill.

"Our oil installations and terminals have been extensively damaged... many refineries have been destroyed and their output halted by enemy attacks. Oilfields and tanks near the border have also been hit," Mr. Samirai said. But he was unable to estimate the amount of war damage because it was impossible to inspect many oil installations along the warfront, the newsletter said.

The projected Rumaila-Yanbu pipeline would be the second major effort to divert oil shipments away from the troubled Arabian Gulf, the traditional outlet for the vast crude supplies from the Middle East to the United States, Western Europe and Japan.

Last July, Saudi Arabia put into operation its own Red Sea pipeline, a \$1.6 billion venture built by the Mobil Corp. with an initial capacity of 1,850,000 barrels a day. The tube was designed to allow an expansion to 3.7 million barrels a day.

## China announces plans to improve car fuel efficiency

PEKING, Dec. 28 (R)—China announced plans today to make its petrol-guzzling cars more efficient, including a ban on the use of vehicles that use the most petrol.

Under new regulations, 500,000 vehicles will be replaced and 800,000 renovated in the next 10 years.

The official newspaper People's Daily said Chinese vehicles ten-

ded to use 15 to 20 per cent more petrol than foreign cars and that the campaign could save 600,000 tonnes of fuel a year. Vehicles considered inefficient would be impounded and their registration cancelled.

Fuel efficiency could be improved by fitting new carburetors, it said.

China, with a population of one billion, has only about two million cars and lorries, many of them elderly, home-produced models based on designs from the 1950s.

A few months ago it ended production of huge Red Flag limousines because they use too much petrol.

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## OPEC production falls sharply

PARIS, Dec. 28 (R)—Oil production by the 13 OPEC nations fell sharply in 1981 when more than one third of their production capacity was unused, the magazine Arab Oil and Gas said today.

OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) production fell 16.4 per cent to 22.48 million barrels a day (mb/d) from 25.88 million last year. Only 63.4 per cent of its estimated production capacity of 35.44 mb/d

was used.

The bi-monthly independent magazine, published in Paris, said OPEC production is likely to remain roughly the same in 1982 unless world oil consumption picks up and the Iran-Iraq war ends.

During 1981 Iraq's output was only 21.8 per cent of its capacity and Iran's only one third, while Kuwait, Libya and Nigeria used less than 60 per cent of their production capacity.

The magazine said these countries suffered this year from lower world oil consumption and from Saudi Arabia's policy of high production and lower prices. Indonesia was the only OPEC state which produced at full capacity in 1981.

The magazine said world oil production in 1981 was probably between 56 and 57 million barrels a day, five per cent lower than last year and 10 per cent down on the record 62.7 million barrels in 1979.

more of the burden of defending itself, a point recently reiterated by U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger when he called for greater efforts by Japan to help meet a major Soviet threat in the Pacific.

Japan has also sharply increased its overseas development assistance by 11.4 per cent to 44.2 billion yen (\$2 billion), an area where the U.S. has also called for bigger contributions.

The domestic scene, however, will be considerably less well financed as the government continues its efforts to streamline government spending and reduce its deficit.

There are only small increases in the budgets for social security and education and increases in the prices of rice, public transport fares, school and hospital fees.

Mr. Samirai said a stage-by-stage plan was under way to raise crude exports to their pre-war level of 3.5 million barrels a day through Mediterranean and Red Sea terminals.

He said Iraq's oil loading and shipping terminals at Khor Al Amaya and Mina Al Bakr have been bombed out of action by Iranian planes and ships since the early days of the war, bringing Iraqi shipments through the Arabian Gulf to a total standstill.

"Our oil installations and terminals have been extensively damaged... many refineries have been destroyed and their output halted by enemy attacks. Oilfields and tanks near the border have also been hit," Mr. Samirai said. But he was unable to estimate the amount of war damage because it was impossible to inspect many oil installations along the warfront, the newsletter said.

The projected Rumaila-Yanbu pipeline would be the second major effort to divert oil shipments away from the troubled Arabian Gulf, the traditional outlet for the vast crude supplies from the Middle East to the United States, Western Europe and Japan.

Last July, Saudi Arabia put into operation its own Red Sea pipeline, a \$1.6 billion venture built by the Mobil Corp. with an initial capacity of 1,850,000 barrels a day. The tube was designed to allow an expansion to 3.7 million barrels a day.

## World borrowing up 53%

PARIS, Dec. 28 (A.P.)—Borrowing on international capital markets increased 53.5 per cent in 1981, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) reported today.

The amount rose to \$183.162 billion from \$119.346 billion in 1980, the OECD said. It attributed the sharp increase to a 68 per cent rise in international bank loans to \$134.272 billion compared to 79.9 billion last year, largely due to \$44 billion raised by American corporations.

The OECD is made up of the major non-communist industrial nations.

ded to use 15 to 20 per cent more petrol than foreign cars and that the campaign could save 600,000 tonnes of fuel a year. Vehicles considered inefficient would be impounded and their registration cancelled.

Fuel efficiency could be improved by fitting new carburetors, it said.

China, with a population of one billion, has only about two million cars and lorries, many of them elderly, home-produced models based on designs from the 1950s.

A few months ago it ended production of huge Red Flag limousines because they use too much petrol.

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### JORDAN TELEVISION

18:30 Top Twenty  
19:40 News Desk  
19:50 Instrumentals  
20:00 Evening Show  
21:00 News Summary  
21:03 Evening Show  
22:00 Close down

### CHANNEL 3

5:30 Koran  
5:45 Cartoons  
6:05 Children's Programme  
6:30 Children's Programme  
6:50 Geine  
7:15 Local Programme  
7:25 Local Programme  
8:00 News in Arabic  
8:30 Arabic Series  
9:30 Local Programme  
10:20 Bestseller: The Timeless Land  
11:20 News in Arabic

### CHANNEL 6

6:00 French Programme  
7:00 News in French  
7:30 News in Hebrew  
8:00 News in Arabic  
8:30 Comedy: Benson  
9:00 Documentary: Cities: Stockholm  
10:00 News in English  
10:20 Bestseller: The Timeless Land

### RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz AM & 99 MHz FM

7:00 Sign on  
7:01 Morning Show  
7:30 Morning Show  
7:40 Morning Show  
8:00 News Headlines  
8:03 Pop Session  
8:30 News Summary  
9:00 Pop Session  
9:03 News Bulletin  
9:10 Instrumentals  
9:30 Country Music  
9:35 Concert Hour  
9:40 News Summary  
9:43 Instrumentals  
9:45 Old Favorites  
9:50 Inventions and Discoveries  
9:53 Pop Session  
9:56 News Summary  
9:59 Top Twenty

### BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1413 KHz

GMT  
04:55 Newsdesk 04:30 The French Minute 04:45 Financial News  
04:55 Reflections 05:00 World News 24 Hours News Summary  
05:30 Divertimento 05:45 The World Today 06:00 Newsdesk  
06:30 Sarah and Company 07:00 World News: 24 Hours News Summary 07:30 Lord of the Flies  
07:45 Network U.K. 08:00 World News: Reflections 08:15 Europa  
08:20 Pageant of the Past 09:00 World News: British Press Review  
09:15 The World Today 09:30 Financial News 09:40 Look Ahead  
09:45 Discovery 10:15 Leave it to Pamth 10:30 Star Choice 11:00 World News: News about Britain  
11:15 Letter from London 11:25 Scotland this Week 11:30 Sporting Highlights of 1981 12:00 Radio Newsworld 12:15 The Rewards of Music 12:45 Sports Round-up  
13:00 World News: 24 Hours News Summary 13:30 Network U.K.  
13:45 A Jolly Good Show 14:30 Michael Strogoff 15:00 Radio Newsworld 15:15 Outlook 16:00 World News: Commentary 16:15 Sarah and Company 16:45 The World Today 17:00 World News: Meridian 17:40 Scotland This Week 17:45 Sports Round-up 18:00 World News: News about Britain  
18:15 Radio Newsworld 18:30 Nat- ional Notebook 18:40 Farming  
World 19:00 Outlook: News Summary 19:30 Stock Market Report  
19:43 Look Ahead 19:45 Barbershop Style 20:00 World News: 24 Hours News Summary 20:30 Divertimento 20:45 The Red and the Black 21:15 Three Centuries of Italian Opera 21:45 Short Story  
22:00 World News: The World

### VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT  
03:30 The Breakfast Show: 06:30 News, Pop music, features, listeners' questions, 17:00 News Roundup: reports, opinion, analyses, 17:30 Dateline 18:00 Special English: news, feature "The Making of a Nation," 18:30 Now Music USA 19:00 News Roundup: reports, opinion, analyses, 19:30 VOA Magazine: Americana, science, culture, letters, 20:00 Special English: news 20:15 Music USA (Jazz) 21:00 VOA World Report 22:00 News, Correspondents' reports, background features, media comments, analyses.

### AMMAN AIRPORT

NOTE: The following airport arrivals and departures are provided to the Jordan Times by the Alia Information department at Amman Airport, Tel. 92205-6. They should always be verified by phone before the arrival or departure of the flight.

ARRIVALS  
8:00 Cairo (EA)  
8:45 Cairo  
8:55 Aqaba  
9:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi  
9:30 Jeddah  
9:40 Dhahran  
10:10 Beirut  
11:05 Riyadh (SV)  
11:30 Kuwait (KAC)  
16:30 Cairo  
16:45 Tripoli  
17:40 London, Paris  
17:45 New York, Amsterdam  
17:45 Madrid, Tunis  
18:00 Cairo  
18:05 Rome (Alitalia)  
18:50 Copenhagen, Athens (SK)  
19:00 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)

### DEPARTURES

3:30 Cairo  
6:45 Beirut  
7:00 Aqaba  
7:40 Damascus, Paris (AF)  
7:45 Tripoli  
8:30 London (BA)  
8:40 Athens, Amsterdam (KLM)  
9:00 Cairo (EA)  
9:00 Beirut (MEA)  
10:00 Frankfurt  
10:30 Rome  
11:30 Cairo  
12:00 Athens, Copenhagen  
12:05 Riyadh (SV)  
13:00 Cairo  
16:30 Kuwait (KAC)  
18:30 Damascus  
18:45 Abu Dhabi  
19:00 Kuwait  
19:15 Dhahran  
20:15 Baghdad  
20:30 Dubai, Muscat  
21:15 Bangkok  
22:00 Baghdad  
22:00 Cairo (EA)

### EMERGENCIES

DOCTORS:  
Amman:  
Fayez Hussein Jallouqah 24027  
Nabil Mreidi 38356  
Zarga:  
Yahya Hussein Hajjir 84394  
Irbid:  
Anwar Al-Shubul 262472680  
PHARMACIES:  
Nairukh 23672  
Smirak 61898  
Al-Hayab 24636  
Al-Farabi 62016  
Luweibdah 22662

### CULTURAL CENTRES

American Centre 41520  
British Council 36147-8  
French Cultural Centre 37009  
Goethe Institute 41993  
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203  
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049  
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777  
Haya Arts Centre 65195  
Al Hussein Youth City 67181  
Y.W.C.A. 41793  
Y.W.M.A. 64251  
Amman Municipal Library 36111  
University of Jordan Library 84355/84366

### PRAYER TIMES

Fajr 5:09  
Sunrise 6:37  
Dhuhr 11:37  
Asr 2:21  
Maghrib 4:38  
Isha 6:06

### CHURCHES

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdah 37440  
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman 24590  
De la Sante Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein 66428  
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali 23541  
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman 23885  
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh 75261  
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh 71331

### LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Saudi riyal 98.6/98.8  
Lebanese pound 72.9/73.2  
Syrian pound 57.5/57.9  
Iraqi dinar 608.8/614  
Kuwaiti dinar 1196/1198.6  
Egyptian pound 338.3/340.8  
Qatar riyal 92.4/92.6  
UAE dirham 91.7/92  
Omani riyal 974.6/976.5  
U.S. dollar 338/340  
U.K. sterling 636.8/640.6  
W. German mark 148.5/149.4  
Swiss franc 185.7/186.8  
Italian lire 27.9/28.1  
(for every 100)  
French franc 58.6/59  
Dutch guilder 135.3/136.1  
Swedish crown 60.7/61.1  
Belgian franc 87.3/87.8  
Japanese yen 152.3/153.2  
(for every 100)

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government) 75111  
Civil Defence rescue 61111  
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) 36381-2  
Municipal water service (emergency) 37111-3  
Police headquarters 39141  
Najdoh roving patrol rescue police (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency 21111, 37777  
Airport information (ALIA) 92205/92206  
Jordan Television 73111  
Radio Jordan 74111

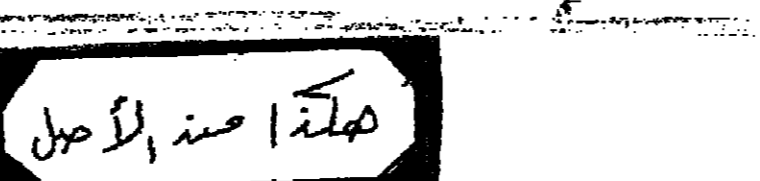
Fire, fire, police 199  
Fire headquarters 22990  
Cablegram or telegram 18

Telephone:  
Information 12  
Jordan and Middle East trunk calls 10  
Overseas radio and satellite calls 17  
Telephone maintenance and repair service 11

### MARKET PRICES

Tomatoes 340 200  
Eggplant 170 130  
Potatoes (imported) 160 120  
Marrow (small) 160 120  
Marrow (large) 100 70  
Cucumber (small) 400 300  
Cucumber (large) 250 200  
Hot Green Pepper 180 160  
Sweet Pepper 160 120  
Cabbages 130 70  
Onions 220 150  
Green onions 400 350  
Garlic 130 90  
Spinach 300 250  
Coconut (piece) 960 250  
Beans 260 200

Bananas (Mukammam) 225 200  
Apples (Golden) 240 190  
Apples (Double Red) 250 200  
Apples (Starben) 220 180  
Lemons 130 90  
Oranges (Aba surra) 260 200  
Oranges (Shamouti) 160 120  
Oranges (local) 110 80  
Oranges (French) 160 120  
Cauliflowers 240 180  
Tangerine 200 150  
Bomali 200 150  
Carrot 140 100  
Turnips 150 100  
Chickens 520 450  
Grapes 110 80  
Beet 130 90



# SPORTS

## Lakers romp over

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (A.P.) — Both Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Mitch Kupchak are out, but the Los Angeles Lakers don't seem to miss them.

Playing again without their injured centres last night, the Lakers won for the fifth straight time in a 139-117 romp over the San Diego Clippers.

"When we lose key guys like Kareem and Mitch, the guys off the bench really give extra effort," said Laker coach Pat Riley after watching reserve Mike McGee score 27 points in the National Basketball Association (NBA) game. "I was happy to be able to give my starters a rest tonight—and I was pleased to see McGee the kind of player he can be."

The Lakers shot 70 per cent in the first half to take a 71-53 lead at intermission, and Riley's team coasted the rest of the way.

"The Lakers played awfully well tonight," said San Diego coach Paul Silas. "We didn't force them to drive to the basket and let them have open jump shots. Their fastbreak really loosened them up, they were just having fun. It makes the game very easy."

In other NBA action, Phoenix beat Philadelphia 99-96 and Milwaukee stopped Chicago 108-96.

McGee, who connected on nine of his 11 field goal attempts and was 9 of 12 from the free throw line while playing only 25 minutes, had plenty of help as the Lakers raised their season record to 23-7.

Jamaal Wilkes scored 23 points, Earvin 'Magic' Johnson had 21 points, 11 assists and six rebounds,

## San Diego Clippers

reserve guard Eddie Jordan had 17 points, Michael Cooper and Norm Nixon had 16 points each and reserves Mark Landsberger and Kurt Rambis had 12 and 11 rebounds, respectively.

The Clippers have lost eight straight games for an overall 6-0 record.

Suns 99, 76ers 96

Len "Truck" Robinson scored a game-high 25 points and combined with Alvin Scott for 17 in a pivotal fourth period to help Phoenix beat Philadelphia.

The Victory broke a two-game losing streak for Phoenix while snapping Philadelphia's two-game winning string. It was Phoenix's fifth straight win over the 76ers at home before a record Arizona veterans memorial coliseum crowd of 14,660. Julius Erving led Philadelphia with 20 points.

Bucks 108, Bulls 96

Sidney Moncrief scored 28 points as three Milwaukee players topped the 20-point mark against Chicago. Milwaukee built a 19-point lead, 94-75, after three minutes of the fourth quarter. The Bulls outscored Milwaukee 15-2 in a 4½-minute segment, with Reggie Theus providing 10 points, and drew to within 96-90. But the Bucks reeled off six straight points, four on long jump shots by Quinn Buckner.

## Rummenigge re-elected footballer of the year

PARIS, Dec. 28 (R) — Karl Heinz Rummenigge of West German first division club Bayern Munich was today re-elected footballer of the year in the annual "Ballon d'Or" (golden football) poll conducted by the magazine France Football.

The West German received 106 points out of a possible 130 from a panel of sports writers in the 26-year-old poll. He was well ahead of Bayern teammate Paul Breitner, who came second with 64 points. Barcelona star Bernd Schuster of West Germany, second last year, was third this time with 39 points.

In 1978 and 1979, Britain's Kevin Keegan, then playing for Hamburg, won the award.

## Australia suffers a batting slump against West Indies

MELBOURNE, Dec. 28 (R) — Australia suffered a batting slump against the West Indies on the third day of the first cricket test today. Four wickets tumbled for 31 to the West Indies fast bowlers at one stage in the final session and Australia, three behind on first innings, were 217 for seven at the close.

With the pitch expected to play unpredictably on the remaining two days, the evenly-balanced game could produce an absorbing finish.

The West Indies, 187 for nine overnight, added a further 14 before they were all out for 201 in reply to Australia's first innings of 198. Fast bowler Dennis Lillee, who yesterday broke West Indian Lance Gibbs world test record total of 309 wickets, dismissed Joel Garner today to finish with his best test performance of seven for 83. Bruce Laird, with 64, and Allan Border, who scored an unbeaten 65, lifted Australia to 184 for three before Michael Holding produced a three-wicket burst which started Australia's decline.

## India, England 3rd test ends in draw

NEW DELHI, Dec. 28 (R) — India retained their 1-0 lead against England when the third cricket test in the six-match series ended in a tame and predictable draw on the fifth and final day today.

On a bone-hard pitch that yielded a total of 1,031 runs for the loss of only 19 wickets, India scored 487 all out in reply to 476 for

nine declared by England, who were 68 without loss in their second innings.

England, who lost the opening test in Bombay by 138 runs and were involved in a high scoring draw in the second in Bangalore, now face the fourth starting in Calcutta on Friday.

On a day when mist and bad light this morning reduced play by 90 minutes, England were again frustrated by the tail enders when India resumed at 376 for seven.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN  
©1981 by Chicago Tribune

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠72 ♥965 ♦AK872 ♣Q103  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♦ Pass  
1 ♠ Pass ?  
What do you bid now?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠872 ♥9 ♦KJ6532 ♣AJ8  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♦ Pass  
2 ♥ Pass ?  
What action do you take?

Q.3—North-South vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠952 ♥AK92 ♦K76 ♣854  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass  
2 ♥ Pass ?  
What action do you take?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠105 ♥K7 ♦9653 ♣AK854  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
2 ♥ Pass ?  
What do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠KQ76 ♥AQJ8 ♦J72 ♣J8  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass  
3 ♥ Pass 4 ♦ Pass ?  
What do you bid now?

Q.6—North-South vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AKQ109 ♥KQ96 ♦94 ♣84  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♥ Pass  
4 ♥ Pass 4 NT Pass  
5 ♦ Pass 5 ♥ Pass ?  
What action do you take?

Look for answers on Thursday



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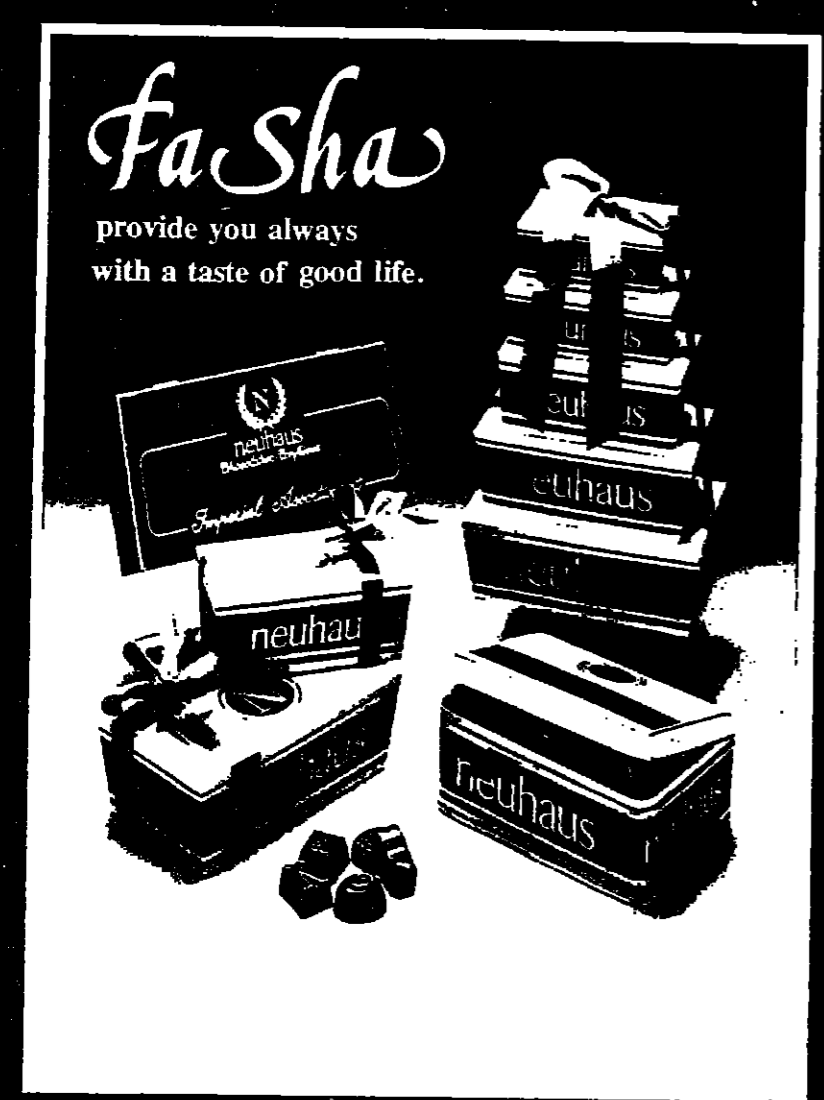
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Applicants may call 44371 ext. 225 for interview and testing.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.



# FEATURES

## Tourist in the desert

Lailan Young reports on the sights, sounds and smells of a holiday in the land of high-rise blocks and desert sands.

— Financial Times news features

I had never camped in my life. But as a member of a pioneer tour group to the United Arab Emirates I had to spend a night in a sleeping bag in the desert. Not even a tent, but I lived to tell the tale of a marvellous experience, which should give courage to all cowards.

When the moon came up we left the remains of an excellent barbecue around the camp fire and walked through the dunes, the sensuous feel of soft sand slithering beneath our feet. In the distance could be seen the faint lights of a bedouin settlement we had passed in the afternoon.

At around two in the morning deep breathing and snores came from inside the seven sleeping bags. It was cold, the chill wind whistling down my neck, and only utter necessity induced me to climb out and disappear behind a private dune. Overhead the stars twinkled, but closer in time flashed the lights of aircraft bound for Dubai where transit passengers can buy the world's cheapest liquor.

Before first light we were woken by the call of the muezzin. Even in the Arabian desert one is never far from a mosque. Small footprints came to within an inch of our heads and feet: desert rats, abominable sandmen? Nothing more scary, we learnt later, than hermit crabs, but a secretary at the Holiday Inn in Khor Fakkan, a new beach resort on the east coast, had once before woken at another dune and looked into the face of

an inquisitive donkey, both heads his and hers — glistening wet with desert dew.

Tourism is new to the United Arab Emirates, but the fascination of seeing oil-rich Arabs at home could be as powerful an attraction as their winter sunshine.

Our tour was centred on two of the seven Emirates, Dubai and adjoining Sharjah, which look like an huge building site. A few old houses retain the traditional wind towers, but air-conditioning has rendered them redundant. High-rise blocks — most less than 10 years old and built since the oil boom — pepper the landscape.

Most airlines fly to Dubai, ignoring the magnificent white airport built by Sharjah's proud sheikh. It could handle 2 million passengers a year, but fewer than 90,000 use Sharjah. Still, tourists are taken to admire the vast emptiness, the superb architecture and a perfect scale model which has an unperfected Concorde poignantly posed beside an empty landing bay.

The ruler's lounge for male VIP guests is large and luxurious; all women of lesser rank than head of state are relegated to a room of modest proportions below stairs. Outside in the 93-degree autumn sunshine, families picnicked among the bougainvillea, palms and pink oleanders on the hand-watered, well-manicured grass lawns. But no plane came.

The lust of gold (tax-free) grabs most visitors to Sharjah and Dubai, where the gold souks gleam with the stuff that has made pirates and killers out of honest

men. Finest florentine jewellery and glorious copies of Rajput treasures are weighed and the prices assessed by their gold content, the craftsmanship of little interest to the affluent, paunchy merchants. While I agonised over how much I could afford, Arab men — their white dishdashes rustling around them, their several wives with faces hidden by burqas, purchased whatever tool their fancy.

Dubai has a small museum and a spice market that scents the air with divine odours. It is fashionable to hold sporting events: though the world's costliest tennis tournament played to empty stands, many locals enjoy cricket and football. The track of the 1981 Grand Prix was around the Hyatt Regency, and anyone foolish enough to check in that day had to cross the track. The golf course is made from a mixture of oil and sand, and you roll up your portable "grass" tee strip and progress from hole to hole.

For 100 Dirhams (\$27) you can hire an abra, or water taxi, and spend two hours on Dubai Creek. Pop into the Sheraton and dinner with a Filipino dance band accompaniment is about 380 Dh for two, plus drinks, or a ten minute taxi ride away is good Lebanese cooking at Estambouli restaurant where the atmosphere is very Middle Eastern and heady, though no drinks are allowed: about 40 Dh for two.

Sharjah's fish market is more photogenic than most in Europe: red mullet, sea bass, tuna, the local favourite — hamour, baby shark, cigalias looking like grey crayfish, and scores of fish unknown to Europeans. At the fruit and vegetable market some of the stallholders will even permit you to photograph their wives, a treat for amateurs unskilled at surreptitiously shooting with telephoto lenses.

Seven out of ten inhabitants are foreigners, brought in to work in this fourth largest oil-producing nation in the Arab World. Most are from nearby Muslim lands, though there is a strong feel of the Indian sub-continent everywhere: ex-Bombay tailors pedalling at old

Singer machines, Pakistanis toiling in the date groves, Kwality icecreams, and "Beware of cheap imitations" notices put up by Indian purveyors of textiles and household goods.

The driving is hair-raising. Crumpled wrecks line the roads, left there as a lesson, unheeded though, of the perils of bad driving; some are yesterday's Cadillacs and Mercedes.

To enjoy the Land-Rover excursions to the desert, oases and wadis, it helps to believe in an after-life and be generously padded below the waist to withstand the crashing bumps and terrible hearings of the curiously exhilarating ride. The drivers love to hear their passengers scream and the tyres screech.

Tourists are still a novelty, so you should ask for, but not necessarily expect to be offered, some of the unusual outings we heard mentioned: camel races in the desert, a wedding, falconry, a 4,500-year-old tomb in Hilli or a journey past mountains which look like giant slagheaps covered with pebbledash to the northern stamping grounds of the legendary Queen of Sheba.

We only had time to sunbathe and use the excellent watersports facilities at the Holiday Inn at Khor Fakkan with backdrop of tankers on the horizon, and we called in at the container port where the British manager seems to enjoy visitors. We reached the oasis of Al Ain where the caravans from the Emirates, Oman and Saudi Arabia used to converge, and wandered along the narrow lanes among the adobe dwellings.

The summers are hot (125 degrees) and humid (100 per cent), so autumn and spring are best, though there are sandstorms in April.

Unlike other states we were not pestered to buy, give, or have our sandals cleaned. If you have time and money and love the sea, you could buy a dhow for \$34,850 and sail it home, the owner of one of the world's loveliest and most stately ships.

## Bolshoi's Spartacus



A scene from the "Spartacus" ballet by Aram Khachaturyan produced at the Bolshoi Theatre by the theatre's Chief choreographer Yuri Grigorovich with Nadezhda Pavlova starring as Phrygia and Vyacheslav Gordeyev as Spartacus. (TASS photo)

## First U.S. test-tube baby born in Virginia

NORFOLK, Virginia, (A.P.) — America's first test-tube baby has been born, doctors at Eastern Virginia Medical School have announced. The five-pound, 12-ounce (3 kg, 608 gr.) girl and her parents are doing well, spokesman Vernon Jones said.

The school gave no details about the birth or the baby's parents, but a news conference was later scheduled with doctors who ran the clinic.

The baby girl is the first born in this country after being conceived through in vitro fertilisation, a process used for women whose fallopian tubes are missing or irreparably blocked. In the process, an egg is removed from the mother's ovary, fertilised with her husband's sperm in the laboratory and implanted in the mother's uterus.

The rest of the pregnancy then takes a normal course.

### Skiers in trouble

BOLZANO, Italy, (A.P.) — Skiers jumped for their lives off a chair lift when its brakes failed and sent the chairs downhill at high speed toward a station, police said. At least two people were reported killed and 23 injured. The victims were taken to a hospital in Silandro, 62 kilometres (37 miles) from here.

### JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

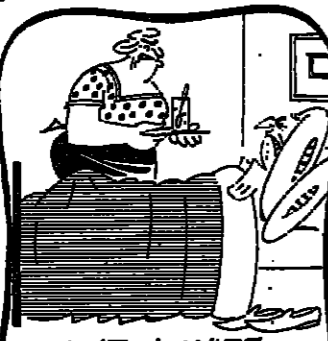
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NARFC

EGGRO

SUTTOM

BLUHME



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SCOUR FANCY PUNDT SONATA

Answer: What the bubble dancer said when an admirer came on too strong — "NO SOAP"

### THE BETTER HALF

By Vinson



"You can stop packing, we can't afford severance pay right now."

### Peanuts



### Mutt 'n' Jeff



### The Flintstones



### FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, DEC. 29, 1981

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: New aspects are in effect that could prove beneficial to you in the days ahead. Make your surroundings more attractive. Encourage those who are less experienced and need a boost.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Strive to be efficient in handling routines. You may have difficulty expressing your abilities, but don't be dismayed.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Take the treatments that will make you a more attractive person. Be more thoughtful of family and friends.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Take steps to improve your environment. A gift for closest tie paves the way to increased harmony at this time.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Be sure your practical affairs are well organized. Take time to engage in social activities tonight.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Consult with a financial expert and follow through on suggestions made. The evening can be most satisfying.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Pursue new goals that will bring greater happiness and success in your life. Show increased loyalty to associates.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Little thoughtful things you do for friends today will be greatly appreciated. Express happiness with loved one.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Contact close ties and make new arrangements for mutual gain. Go out socially tonight and have a delightful time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Contact higherups and gain the support you need. Make long-range plans to have a more successful career.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Go to new sites where you can study and adopt the right philosophy for you to follow. Be more helpful to others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be more cooperative with those you deal with in business and gain their added goodwill. Engage in favorite hobby.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Being more cooperative with associates brings more harmony and mutual profits. Strive for increased happiness.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have the knack of doing thoughtful things for others, and should have the education directed along lines of dealing with the humanities, such as medicine or nursing. Be sure to give religious training early in life.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

### SECRETARY REQUIRED

Company secretary required, with good command of English and developed skill in shorthand or dictaphone typing.

Pis. call tel. 64128/9  
Orient Transport Company Ltd.  
Abdall, Shukri Abdeen Building  
Opposite Islamic Hospital.

### Notice

## FOR PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Ministry of Public Works Amman, Jordan

### AL HASHEMIAH GUEST PALACE PROJECT

Applications are invited for the prequalification of tenders for the alterations and refurbishment to convert Al Hashemiah into a government guest palace.

#### The project includes:

- Alterations in order to convert the building into a number of self contained suites, and to provide extra bedrooms, staff changing rooms and stores.
  - Refurbishing mechanical, electrical and plumbing services, and generally making good the fabric of the building.
  - Undertaking the installation of new kitchens and laundry facilities.
  - General upgrading of external works.
- Applications may be submitted by:
- First-class building contractors provided that they prove, through association or recruitment of specialists, that they are qualified to undertake such work;
  - Qualified international contractor, associated with local qualified contractor;
  - Qualified international contractors.

Tender documents will be available at the cost of JD 160,000 from Jan. 1, 1982.

All interested contractors are required to submit two envelopes on the specified dates as follows:

1. Prequalification envelope by Jan. 31, 1982.
2. Priced bid envelope by March 15, 1982.

On March 15 and after receiving the Priced bid envelopes, the qualified contractors will be declared. Only their priced bids will be opened; other priced bid envelopes will be returned to senders without being opened.

Estimated commencement date of the works is May 1, 1982.

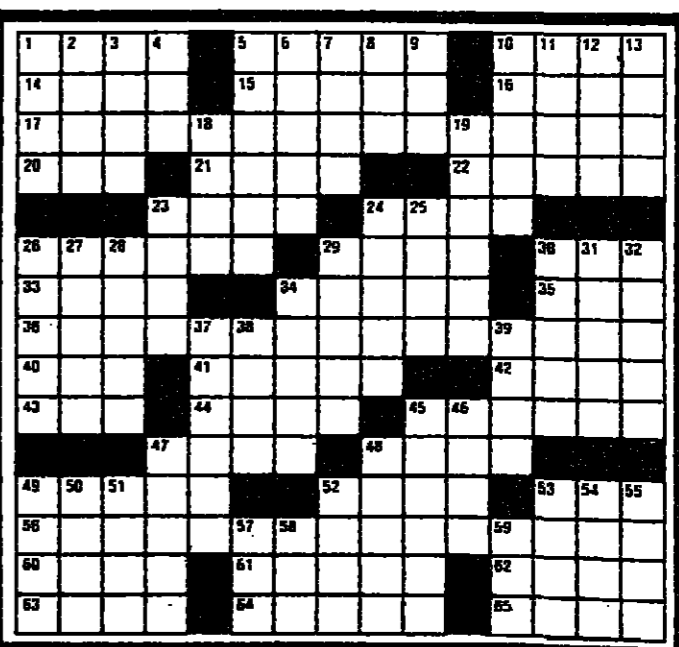
Estimated construction period 18 months.

Minister of Public Works  
Eng. Awani Masri.

### THE Daily Crossword

by Herb L. Risteen

ACROSS	29 Money in Milan	56 Ignores no-no	26 Dealt (with) Keep
1 Docile	30 Boring tool	61 Small openings	27 Troubling
5 Relating to the cheek	33 Simpletons	62 Imperfection	28 Burning
10 Vehicles	34 Strike back	63 Cheerful	29 Father
14 Partly open	35 Court	64 Playing cards	30 Be ready
15 Morini or Jong	36 Pays sudden attention	65 Sea bird	31 Sickroom report
17 Farm unit	40 Blunder	DOWN	32 Also-ran
18 Receive a hard blow	41 Pries	1 Parting word	34 Stratagems
20 Chopping tool	42 Increase	2 Greek hero	37 Does bakery work
21 Enjoy Old Sol	43 Color	3 Construct	38 Planted
22 Metal or music	44 Pitcher	4 Before	39 Sea eagle
23 Valley	45 Equine gait	5 Mining products	40 Fondle
24 Kismet	47 Prohibits aunt	6 Had origin	41 Island
26 Presides at a meeting	48 Theatrical	7 Connection	42 Grable or Ford
	49 Transported	8 Do stage work	43 Saunter
	52 Moslem	9 Arena cheer	44 Mighty monarch
	53 Doctrine	10 Hidden supplies	45 Winesburg, —
		11 Feel discomfort	46 Nothing
		12 French cheese	47 else than — of Man
		13 Dispatched	48 Excel
		18 Building beam	49 Cut, as the lawn
		19 Possessions	50 Make a choice
		23 Record	51 Negative
		24 Decrees	52 Selamander
		25 Curved structure	



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كلمة من الجمل



## WORLD

Warsaw silent on worker turn out  
as underground strike continues

VIENNA, Dec. 28 (R) — Poland's martial law rulers gave only scant details of the extent of the nation's turn-out for work today after bleak Christmas holidays.

It was not clear how many workers heeded calls by militants of the banned Solidarity free trade union for continued passive resistance to military rule.

Warsaw Radio said work restarted at a coal mine and a steel mill in Katowice Province where opposition was strong after the military takeover two weeks ago.

But it added that an underground strike by 1,000 miners at the Piast mine in Katowice was still going on.

News bulletins monitored abroad did not mention the situation in Warsaw though they said the provincial towns of Lublin and Bielsko-Biala were working normally.

The silence contrasted with the radio's frequent assurances earlier in the crisis that most industry was returning to normal as a result of the army's intervention.

**Soviets deprived of supplies**

Western diplomats in Moscow reported meanwhile that the Soviet Union was beginning to suffer as a result of the Polish crisis.

They said urgently-needed supplies of grain could not be unloaded at Polish ports for shipment by rail to the Soviet Union and were up to 10 days late.

As authorities in Poland warned the population that they were in for another round of food cuts and austerity next month, the Red Cross said in Geneva that it had sent four tonnes of medicine by air to Warsaw.

**Japan answers positively to U.S.**

Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki wrote to President Reagan promising to remain in close touch on the question of Western sanctions against Poland.

These have been imposed so far only by the United States and are being strongly resisted as an immediate option by at least West Germany in Europe, according to diplomats.

East European newspapers maintained their barrage of criticism of the U.S. response to the Dec. 13 crackdown on Solidarity's challenge to Communist rule in Poland.

**Cheysson arrives for Athens talks**

ATHENS, Dec. 28 (R) — French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson arrived today for two days of talks with Greek officials, expected to concentrate on Greece's relations with NATO and the EEC.

They will be a continuation of the exchanges between Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu and French officials during Mr. Papandreu's visit to Paris last month.

Mr. Papandreu has said he intends to review Greek relations with the Atlantic alliance, saying that NATO should guarantee Greece's borders with Turkey, and to negotiate more favourable terms for Greek membership of the EEC (European Economic Community).

The two sides are also expected to discuss the situation in the Balkans in the light of Mr. Papandreu's stated wish for the creation of a nuclear-free peninsula, and the presence of superpower fleets in the Mediterranean, an authoritative source said.

The talks are also expected to include European participation in the multinational force in Sinai, which Greece opposed during the initial stage of discussions in the EEC.

Mr. Cheysson is due to leave for Egypt tomorrow.

**ANTANANARIVO — Six years of Socialism have brought the Indian Ocean island of Madagascar to the brink of bankruptcy and economic collapse, spurring its leaders to seek urgent aid from the West.**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), called to help, reckons the perfume island is facing an "acute liquidity problem caused by structural causes." Diplomats say there is no money left in the government coffers, and the country is being kept going by printing money.

"How come there is everything in capitalist countries and nothing whatever in Socialist nations?" asks a barefoot rickshaw driver pulling his ancient machine up the steep hills of brick-built Antananarivo, where the people bear resemblance to their Asian ancestors of Malaya and Indonesia than to their Bantu neighbours of continental Africa.

"The Judases of Madagascar are sabotaging the economy," replies 45-year-old Malagasy President Didier Ratsiraka, who is used to Biblical references after a Christian upbringing in a well-to-do family.

Switching alliances in the mid-1970s, President Ratsiraka, a navy officer by training, launched a Socialist revolution and made friends with Communist countries like the Soviet Union and North Korea.

What used to be called the "Pearl of the French Empire," before independence from France in 1960, has become something of a nightmare for the nine million Malagasians who now equate Socialism with constant shortages.

At dawn every day, long queues of shoppers form outside shops in the southern hemisphere's winter in the hope they will get their meagre allocations of rice, the country's staple food, or to seek such rarities as sugar, grown locally, cooking oil and butter. The waiting can often be fruitless.

There is nostalgia not so much for the French, who were disliked as

**Unionists adamant**

Reports reaching the West said Solidarity leaders who had escaped arrest called for a post-Christmas campaign of passive resistance in leaflets distributed in Warsaw.

They urged workers to follow the example of the Ursus tractor factory near the capital which was said to have produced only one tractor in the first week of martial law.

**Time names Walesa 'Man of the Year'**

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (R) — Lech Walesa, the leader of Poland's Solidarity free trade union, has been named Time magazine's man of the year.

This year, Time said in a statement released yesterday, "the courageous little electrician from Gdansk stood out not only as the heart and soul of Poland's battle with a corrupt communist regime, but as an international symbol of the struggle for freedom and dignity."

Each year Time selects someone who in the view of the magazine "has had the most impact, for good or ill, on the course of events over the past 12 months."

Time's first nomination in 1927 was Charles Lindbergh and its last was President Ronald Reagan. Others have included Joseph Stalin, Hitler and Iran's religious and revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

**Sattar calls on world to pressure Israel to evacuate occupied lands**

BAHRAIN, Dec. 28 (R) — President Abdus Sattar of Bangladesh called on the international community today to put pressure on Israel to evacuate all occupied Arab lands, including the recently annexed Golan Heights, the Saudi Press Agency said.

He also urged at a press conference in Riyadh that all foreign troops be withdrawn from Afghanistan and the people of that country be given the right to self-determination.

The agency quoted Mr. Sattar as saying his current visit to Saudi Arabia, the first abroad since he took office in November, would further foster relations between the two nations. His talks with King Khalid and other Saudi leaders were "very successful and fruitful," he said.

The kingdom has given Bangladesh more than \$450 million in aid or grants in the last six years.

The president's talks are believed also to have covered possible further assistance to Bangladesh.

**Haitians stage demo in Miami**

MIAMI, Dec. 28 (R) — Police used tear gas to disperse a crowd of about 700 demonstrators yesterday outside a detention centre where Haitian refugees have been on hunger strike for five days.

A police spokesman said one tear gas canister was lobbed toward the demonstrators when they began to throw stones and bottles at about 20 policemen sent to reinforce the camp's guards.

Some of the demonstrators, all of whom appeared to be Haitians, set fire to scrub and grass around the Krome Avenue Camp near Miami. Refugees inside the camp also demonstrated.

Officials of the Immigration and Naturalisation Services said all but about 18 of the 630 Haitian men in the detention centre were taking part in the hunger strike.

They want to be allowed to stay with family or friends in the Miami area pending a decision on whether they will be deported. Many of them have been in the camp for more than six months.

The Reagan administration says that the Haitians, unlike Cubans, are mainly ineligible for political asylum, arguing that they fled their country to escape economic hardship rather than political repression.

**U.S. fears Soviet intervention**

Mr. Suzuki's letter to President Reagan was in response to a U.S. request for Western cooperation in dealing with the Polish crisis. Officials in Tokyo said he stressed the need to avoid outside intervention.

Japan is sending a special envoy to Western Europe this week to discuss sanctions policy but has pledged to fulfill current food and financial aid commitments.

The current U.S. view, according to officials in Washington, is that martial law has not been a success and that its failure could lead to the Soviet invasion which it is intended to avoid.

Walter Stoessel, under secretary of state for political affairs, said strikes were still continuing and told a television interviewer: "The situation is very serious and it could in the end result in Soviet intervention if things get out of hand."

Reuters correspondent Brian Mooney reported yesterday in a censored despatch from Warsaw that severe restrictions on personal freedom in Poland remained.

**Joint Italian-U.S.-German efforts unfruitful yet**

Red Brigades' second message says Dozier's 'proletarian trial' under way

MILAN, Italy, Dec. 28 (R) — The Red Brigades kidnapers of U.S. Brig. Gen. James Dozier, who have been holding him since Dec. 17, have said his "proletarian trial" is under way.

And the language they used in their communique to announce the fact bore a chilling resemblance to that employed to describe another Brigades hostage, Giuseppe Talliero, who was murdered after a similar trial last summer.

Italian police, now aided by West German and U.S. experts, are continuing a so far fruitless search for the "people's prison" where the 50-year-old Vietnam veteran, the top U.S. officer at NATO's Verona base, is being held.

"Comrades, proletarians, the proletarian trial of the pig Dozier has begun," said a gift-wrapped communique found last night in a rubbish bin here. It contained no demands or conditions for his release.

"This pig, this assasin, is a 'hero' of the American massacres in Vietnam where he won various decorations for his 'merits'," the communique said.

In the Talliero case, the Brigades also called him a pig, made no demands for his release and then killed him.

The Red Brigades, who kidnaped and murdered former Italian premier Aldo Moro in 1978, said the general was an agent of "U.S. imperialism" who had been sent to Italy "to repress or suffocate the liberation of peoples."

A photograph of Gen. Dozier, showing what appeared to be a bruise under his left eye, was also found with the communique, which was the second released by the Brigades.

In the document they said he was in Italy to conduct repression and promote unemployment.

Referring to his post as deputy chief of staff for logistics and administration at the Allied Land Forces South European base, the Brigades gave what purported to be a detailed analysis of NATO's military organisation in that region.

"These forces amount to about 270,000 men, 1,200 tanks, 1,000 artillery pieces and 4,000 armoured personnel carriers. For the use and function of this apparatus, the pig Dozier must answer to the international proletariat," they said.

At the NATO base, official spokesmen said the initial reaction was one of relief that the general was apparently still alive. But investigators made no immediate comment on the latest developments.

**Coalition cabinet takes office in Kerala as Communists call it 'Delhi imposition'**

NEW DELHI, Dec. 28 (Agencies) — An eight-party coalition led by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party took over the reins of power in the southern Indian state of Kerala today, ending 68 days of direct central rule following the collapse of a leftist state government.

The Communist-led coalition resigned in October after the defection of two parties reduced it to a minority in the 141-member state legislature. The two groups later joined the Congress-led alliance.

The defecting parties accused the Communists of politicising the state police force and staging political murders.

K. Karunakaran, 61, was sworn in Kerala's chief minister by the governor, Mrs. Jyothi Venkatchelam. Mr. Karunakaran's seven-member cabinet also administered the oath of office.

Meanwhile, the Marxist Communist Party and the Communist Party of India demanded fresh state elections and held demonstrations throughout Kerala today to protest what they described as the "imposition of minority government engineered by New Delhi."

Mr. Karunakaran's new state government has the support of 68 legislators. The five-legislator opposition Janata Party has announced that it would remain neutral in the state assembly.

In appointing Mr. Karunakaran, Mrs. Venkatchelam told reporters that she was "convinced" that the Congress-led coalition enjoyed majority support in the legislature.

Kerala became the first Indian Communist state when it elected a Marxist government in 1956, that ruled for three years. The Communists remained strong there and returned to power for varying periods from 1967 to this year and still remains the strongest individual party in the state.

**'Christ of Montfave' dies**

PARIS, Dec. 28 (A.P.) — While sorting mail in the Avignon post office in 1950 he suddenly stood up and said he had had a revelation and that he was Jesus Christ reincarnate.

By the time the "Christ of Montfave" died on Saturday, the day after Christmas, he had founded a church, survived scandal and amassed a fortune.

Georges Roux, 78, went from his job as post office assistant supervisor to become a faith healer. Scandal marked him in 1953 when three children in his cure died, one from a relatively simple ear infection.

Despite a public outcry against him, a crowd of disciples from his Universal Christian Church cried out at the burial of one of the children, Joelle Yves, "we thank you, God, for having taken this child. She now sits with you."

Living in seclusion in a magnificent mansion called la Prefecture on his Montfave estate, in Vaucluse near Avignon, Roux still managed to amass a fortune which left him a millionaire at his death, according to the French weekly *le Journal du Dimanche*.

His Universal Christian Church had about 5,000 members, who paid him "tithes" of up to 30 per cent of their incomes. He also made money from writing books and from sales of his Lumiere (light) newspaper.

Answering charges that he was rich rather than religious, Roux said, "two thousand years ago, my father, a carpenter, was well-off. I already had it easy."

Roux was married and had six children and noted, "Mary, my mother, had six children before me."

A former colleague of his at the Avignon post office Madame Filippi, remembered him as "nice but he did not like either joking or irony. He suffered visibly from a persecution complex."

**U.S. fears Soviet intervention**

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Reuters correspondent Brian Mooney reported yesterday in a censored despatch from Warsaw that severe restrictions on personal freedom in Poland remained.

**Suspect of two Atlanta murders to go on trial**

ATLANTA, Dec. 28 (R) — A man accused of killing the last two of 28 young blacks found slain in Atlanta between 1979 and 1981 goes on trial today.

The killings, which had haunted this city in the deep south for months, stopped about the time the defendant, Wayne Williams, himself a black, was arrested last June 21.

No other arrests have been made, but a special police task force investigating the case has given the court a document saying Mr. Williams could be linked to 18 other killings.

The trial, expected to begin with two weeks of jury selection followed by up to six weeks of complicated technical testimony, is expected to draw as much national and international attention as the massive investigation of the murders.

Mr. Williams, 23, a freelance photographer and self-styled music promoter, is charged with two counts of first-degree murder of Nathaniel Cater, 27, and Jimmy Ray Payne, 21.

Both were black, slightly-built men discovered dead in the city's Chattahoochee River about a month apart last spring.

Law enforcement officials have said the strongest evidence against Mr. Williams were several fibres found on the two victims' bodies that resemble fibres taken from the suspect's home and car.

The 26 other victims, including six found in the Chattahoochee, were also black and ranged in age from seven to 27.

While the killings went on volunteers organised mass searches on weekends for clues and for bodies.

A night curfew is still in effect for youths under 16.

A special task force involving 50 agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation was formed to solve the murders.

A national drive involving leading entertainers was organised to raise funds for the families of victims. Former world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali offered \$400,000 as a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer.

People across the United States, particularly in the poor black ghettos of large cities, demonstrated in sympathy for the bereaved families.

Some of the dead blacks had lived in Atlanta's subsidised public housing and came from broken homes.

Many were described by their friends and families as "bustlers" — poor, street-wise kids who sought money in odd jobs, such as sweeping out small shops, cleaning car windows, or hawking small items on the streets.

**First American test-tube baby born in Virginia**

NORFOLK, Virginia, Dec. 28 (R) — The first "Test-tube" baby born in the United States was delivered at a hospital here today. An official at the Norfolk General Hospital said the baby girl weighed 2 kilograms and 600 grams. The parents were not named.

The world's first test-tube baby, Louise Brown, was born in England on July 25, 1978. The test-tube baby technique involves fertilising the female egg with sperm in a laboratory and re-implanting it in the mother's womb.

**Popular Pakistani weekly closed down**

LAHORE, Dec. 28 (A.P.) — An influential and widely-circulated independent weekly journal, the *Chatan Labor*, was closed by the Punjab provincial government today. Associated Press of Pakistan news agency reported. The weekly was charged with publishing and printing an objectionable article without submitting it to the censoring authorities before it was sent to the press. Majid Nizami, president of the All-Pakistan Newspapers Society, has appealed the government's decision.

**W. German police defuse bomb outside Soviet envoy's home**

BONN, Dec. 28 (A.P.) — A bomb was placed before the residence of the Soviet ambassador to West Germany over the weekend, but police defused it before it could explode, officers reported today. Police said members of the embassy staff found the device Saturday and summoned authorities. German weapons experts defused the device. Ambassador Vladimir Semyanov was in Moscow on holiday at the time, the embassy said.

**Sakharov's fasting results in health deterioration**

MOSCOW, Dec. 28 (R) — Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, who recently staged a 17-day hunger strike, has since suffered palpitations similar to a heart attack, his wife said today. She told reporters by telephone from the Volga city of Gorky that her husband suffered the palpitations last Tuesday and Saturday. Mrs. Sakharov, who also took part in the fast, said her husband had been given pills to take after he left hospital last Thursday but no instructions on how to use them. The couple staged the hunger strike to obtain a Soviet exit visa for Liza Alexeyeva, 26, wife-by-proxy of Mrs. Sakharov's son by a previous marriage. The couple were taken to hospital on Dec. 4 against their will but they refused to give up the protest until four days later when the Soviet authorities granted the visa. The 60-year-old physicist was exiled to Gorky two years ago because of his dissident activities.

## Madagascar - once 'Pearl of French Empire' - on brink of economic collapse

By Loic Evén

ANTANANARIVO — Six years of Socialism have brought the Indian Ocean island of Madagascar to the brink of bankruptcy and economic collapse, spurring its leaders to seek urgent aid from the West.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), called to help, reckons the perfume island is facing an "acute liquidity problem caused by structural causes." Diplomats say there is no money left in the government coffers, and the country is being kept going by printing money.

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Switching alliances in the mid-1970s, President Ratsiraka, a navy officer by training, launched a Socialist revolution and made friends with Communist countries like the Soviet Union and North Korea.

What used to be called the "Pearl of the French Empire," before independence from France in 1960, has become something of a nightmare for the nine million Malagasians who now equate Socialism with constant shortages.

At dawn every day, long queues of shoppers form outside shops in the southern hemisphere's winter in the hope they will get their meagre allocations of rice, the country's staple food, or to seek such rarities as sugar, grown locally, cooking oil and butter. The waiting can often be fruitless.

There is nostalgia not so much for the French, who were disliked as

occupation forces, but for the first decade of post-independence liberalisation under Social Democrat President Philibert Tsiranana.

Yet it was a free-for-all market economy and its excesses, largely benefiting France and its presence, that triggered the swing to the left when student demonstrations, exploited by opposition political parties, forced the demise of president Tsiranana and a legal takeover by the army in 1972, diplomatic sources said.

Within months, Mr. Ratsiraka, then foreign minister, cancelled cooperation agreements with France, including the stationing of French troops and ships in a naval base at Diego Suarez on the island's northern tip, cancelled Madagascar's membership of the preferential franc monetary zone, and nationalised French companies.

The tilt to the left gained momentum when he took over as head of state following the still-unexplained assassination of the titular president, Gen. Ramanantsoa, in 1975.

The island — the fourth largest in the world and about the size of the British Isles — was renamed a Non-aligned democratic republic and Mr. Ratsiraka won a seven year mandate from the people with the backing of an unlikely alliance of five political parties. They included the active pro-Moscow "Akfi" Communist Party, grouped in the sole legal political front.

From there, Socialism began to be implemented. Centuries-old networks run by generations of small-time Chinese and Indian merchants were quickly squeezed out by large and cumbersome state companies while agriculture, the backbone of the economy employing well over 85 per cent of the people, was collectivised.

"Inefficiency resulted, and was not entirely unexpected. It led to considerably reduced agricultural output as farmers reverted to autonomy, publicly saying they were fed up with a regime that appears to disregard their needs," said a foreign observer with 20 years' experience of Madagascar.

In more diplomatic language, the IMF says structural changes needed to redress imbalances in the economy require new incentives to production, especially in the agricultural sector, and deregulation of retail prices to let them find their true levels.

The crunch came last year. Poor export performance due to lower

world prices for such commodities as coffee, which account for 45 per cent of the country's exports of about \$400 million, coincided with bad weather that affected production, massive imports and uncontrolled borrowing. This led the country deeply into the red.

IMF data shows that Madagascar's balance of payments deficit reached almost \$300 million in 1980, equal to 19 per cent of the Gross National Product, while the external debt jumped to \$1.1 billion. Repayments have since been rescheduled over two years.

As a pre-condition for providing some \$150 million later this year in IMF stand-by credits, the fund won government agreement to a large measure of deflation, with self-imposed Malagasy controls on credit, severe restrictions on imports, curtailment of borrowing, unfreezing of retail prices and increases in incentives to farmers.

"They had little choice but to accept or let the country go bust," said a Western diplomat who doubts that the limited amount of credit until June next year will be enough for a full recovery.

"There is an understanding that the regime will do away in time with its rice subsidy which is costing 27.4 million dollars a year, while rice imports of an estimated 200,000 tonnes this year will cost an additional 60 million dollars," he added.

But rice in a nation where consumption per head is considered the highest in the world is such a potentially explosive issue that the government will probably move with caution in removing the 35 Malagasy francs (13 U.S. cents) per kilo subsidy on the retail price.

All the more so since presidential elections are scheduled for next year and the president's record is giving rise to discontent on both left and right, political sources said.

Coming to power on a Socialist platform, the president is blamed by the left, especially the Communists, for failing to carry out the programme fully, they said.

Early this year left-wing parties and the ruling 16-member supreme revolutionary council met to assess whether a possible request for membership to the Soviet-led Comecon economic alliance of Communist countries could be a practical alternative to the West's IMF, the sources said.

In the past five years, Soviet aid to Madagascar increased substantially, with sales of military equipment to the 20,000-strong

army, including 12 Russian-made MiG-21 fighters, 30 heavy T-50 tanks of little use on the poor road network, anti-aircraft guns, radar equipment and light individual arms such as Kalashnikov assault rifles, the sources said.

But within days of the meeting, Soviet Ambassador Alexis Boursatof made clear to President Ratsiraka that Moscow would not grant Madagascar more than the estimated \$300 million in equipment loans already given for the purchase of military gear, diplomats said.

President Ratsiraka's alliance with President Kim Il Sung's Pyongyang regime appears to stem from a belief that for his own global strategy — he would like to be seen as a leader of the Third-World — he had to be identified with a neutral stance in the world rivalry between the Soviet Union and China, diplomatic sources said.

This so-called neutral stance did not, however, prevent Madagascar from voting last year with the Soviet Union on a United Nations resolution condemning the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

The vote seemed out of step with a foreign policy that repudiates military interventions and the presence of military forces and bases on foreign soil.

The sources said Madagascar's vote might have been in exchange for some financial support by Moscow, or as recompense from Madagascar for its consistent refusal to grant the Soviet Union naval facilities at Diego Suarez despite persistent requests.

But with economic recovery as his top priority, President Ratsiraka is now prepared to mend fences with everyone, including "U.S. imperialism."

The new official explanation here for the Afghan vote is that it was due to a misunderstanding, a mistaken belief that Washington had directly tried to stop Japan from selling rice to Madagascar.

Japan is reducing its rice sales to the republic to only 45,000 tonnes this year, a quarter of what the Madagasians had hoped, but the reason is a clause in a U.S.-Japan trade agreement limiting Japan's yearly rice exports at preferential prices worldwide to 200,000 tonnes, diplomatic sources said.

— Reuters